



All About **Western Tack**

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Western Tack

About Western Tack

Western tack is what most of us think of when we think “horse riding.” Cowboys use western tack. Many riding schools use Western tack. Let’s discuss what goes into a common Western tack setup.

What You Need

Western Saddles and Accessories

Western saddles are “cowboy” saddles. The design is derived from those used by early Spanish settlers. They often, but not always, have saddle horns. Saddle horns assist riders in roping and cattle control.

Western saddles are not padded, and require a saddle blanket and seat padding to be comfortable for horse and rider. Western stirrups are spacious and roomy, which is why riders need boots with a substantial heel. Girths (the band that holds the saddle on the horse) are tied on with a strap of leather.

There are all-purpose Western saddles, as well as specialty Western saddles for the various Western horse sports, which include cutting, reining, roping, and barrel racing. There are many beautiful custom Western saddles.

Western Bridles and Accessories

The Western bridle is designed to hold the bit in the horse’s mouth. It consists of a headstall with several parts: crown pieces, cheekpieces, throatlatch (not always required), and reins. Although a bridle can also include a browband and noseband, this is often not part of the standard Western tack set-up. In some examples, the Western bridle includes a browband that only circles one ear of the horse.

Western bits are solid, with no middle joint. There are many manufacturers that make matching bit and spur sets.

Western Apparel and Boots

Western riders wear jeans and other typical “Western-style” gear. This includes snap-front shirts, vests, chaps, leather belts, and cowboy boots.



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Grooming Accessories

The usual kit for grooming your horse includes:

- Hoof Pick
- Curry Comb (rubber, plastic, or metal)
- Body Brushes (soft and hard bristle brushes are recommended)
- Mane and Tail Comb
- Cloth (an old washcloth)

Groom your horse frequently. Pick their hooves daily.

Feeding and Treats

Feeding and treats do not vary between tack styles. Horses are nibblers because their stomach is rather small in proportion to their body size. Horses are happy grazing all day long. However, feeding them at least three times a day is often recommended.

How Much to Feed

Hay: 2 pounds hay/100 pounds of horse

Grain: no more than ½ pound of grain/100 pounds of body weight.

Treats

Treats need to be included when you are calculating your horse's nutrition. They can be homemade or bought. They include cookies, nuggets, and grain mixes, among others. Of course, many horses like carrots and apples. Some will do nearly anything for a sugar cube – but make that a very occasional treat. It's just not healthy as an everyday item.

Stable Care and Accessories

The options for horse equipment are nearly endless, but at a minimum you will need:

- Food: feed tub; water trough or large buckets
- Water heater if you live in an area that experiences freezing temperatures.
- Bedding: pitch fork, stable broom, wheelbarrow, manure fork; insect spray
- Horse control: halter, lead ropes
- First Aid Kit



You'll need these basics for Western Tack. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Boot Scrubber](#)
- [Bit Guard](#)
- [Canteen Bag](#)
- [Muzzle Grazing Attachment](#)



Additional Equipment and Accessories

Additional equipment for all styles of riding is effective endless. In addition to spurs and chaps mentioned above, there are cowboy hats, helmets, saddle bags, feed bags, novelty brushes and combs, and on and on. What you add to your stable depends solely on your imagination and budget.

Popular Products for Your Western Tack

- [Leash Saddle Bag](#)
- [Overhorn Bag W/Bottles](#)
- [Bit Guard](#)
- [4-way Care Leather Conditioner](#)
- [Bick 1 Leather Cleaner](#)
- [Leather Punch](#)
- [Boot Jack](#)
- [Neatsfoot Oil](#)
- [All Purpose Boot Cleaner & Conditioner](#)
- [Apache Creme Oil Restorer](#)
- [Boot Creme Polish](#)
- [Denim Blue Cream Polish](#)
- [Golden Mink Oil](#)
- [Riding Crop With Loop](#)
- [Lexol Conditioner Quick- Wipes](#)
- [Liquid Glycerine Saddle Soap](#)
- [Saddle Soap Paste](#)
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