

Stalls

Custom stall manufacturers make it easier than ever to build sturdy, safe, long-lasting, beautiful stalls in your new barn.

The biggest dilemma you'll face is choosing among the vast array of options and combinations available; again, safety and ventilation should be the most important factors.

A general rule of thumb for how big your stalls should be is no less than 1.5 times the length of your horse. One thing to keep in mind: You can put smaller horses in big stalls, but it's a lot more difficult to squeeze big horses into small stalls. Just in terms of future marketability of your farm, you might want to install more spacious stalls since bigger seems to be better in the minds of many horse breeders and owners today.

Stall systems are attached to the support frame of your barn and typically consist of a combination of lumber and metal grills or heavy-duty mesh. Grills are generally made of galvanized steel that is powder-coated in a variety of colors. Most stall systems are designed for 2-by-6- or 2-by-8-inch lumber that is fitted, then secured into a metal frame. The board closest to the floor should always be pressure treated.

If possible, inside and outside stall doors should face each other for ventilation purposes, and have latches that are part of the door itself. Overhead stall height without impediment should be a minimum of 10 feet. Feed troughs and water buckets should be separated so that horses can't double-dip. And, even though swing-out hayrack/feed doors are very popular and convenient, horses are better off eating hay with their heads down.