

Wiring

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All overhead light bulbs in the barn should be encased in “jelly jars” or wire mesh frames to prevent horses from accidentally cutting their heads upon contact and to keep cobwebs off the hot surfaces (another cause of barn fires).

Cut down the number of overhead electric boxes for stalls by having your electrician install them at the top of each partition so that one bulb shines into two stalls. You can also reduce your electric bill by using wall switches that turn on alternating light fixtures rather than all of them, or consider using fluorescent lighting, which is an inexpensive alternative to light bulbs.

Make a list of all the uses you may have for electric power, such as: halogen or mercury vapor lights on the barn's exterior, clippers, heat lamps, heated buckets, water heaters, vacuums and vet equipment. Either on your own rough layout or an architect's plans, specify where you want each power outlet and light fixture installed in your barn. Be as complete as possible because once finish walls go up, it's much more difficult to make changes.