

Emergency Blanket Repairs

If your horse has managed to rip, tear, shred or otherwise mangle his blanket in the midst of a cold snap, here are some things you can do to hold it together until you make it to the tack store or procure a replacement.

Step 1: Sew the blanket with a large needle and dental floss. Yes, dental floss! It may not look pretty, but it's sturdier than regular thread, and the large needle is easier to push through the thick material. Heavy-duty needles can be purchased at drug and fabric stores. Keep the needle and floss on hand at the barn.

Step 2: Keep Scotch Guard or another type of waterproof spray nearby during winter months as well. Spray it over sewed spots. While it won't restore the ripped blanket to its previous resistance, it can help in the short term.

Step 3: Save straps and buckles from old blankets. To temporarily keep the blanket in place you can attach an old strap or buckle when your horse rips his off.

Step 4: If there's no blanket repair service in your area, here's an alternative: For big jobs (like strap attachment) try taking your cleaned blanket to a local shoe repair shop. They have heavy-duty sewing machines to sew through hefty winter blankets and will usually charge a reasonable amount (call and ask if they're willing, and obtain a price quote ahead of time).