



BASIC HORSE GROOMING

Angela Edelson

REQUIRED TOOLS FOR GROOMING



- Curry comb
- Hard brush
- Soft brush
- Hoof pick
- Mane & tail brush

OPTIONAL:

- Hoof oil
- Rag



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HorseGroomingTools.jpg>

STEP ONE: PICK YOUR HORSE'S FEET

- Take the hoof pick and scrape the dirt out from heel to toe (avoiding the frog of the hoof)
- While picking a horse's feet, check if they have any loose shoes, rocks, or anything stuck in their feet or any injuries
- Also check if your horse has any signs of *thrush* or any other signs of hoof disease



STEP TWO: CURRY YOUR HORSE

- For this step you want to take your curry comb and curry the horse in circular motions
- Currying your horse can help warm up their muscles and helps loosen the dirt in your horse's coat



STEP THREE: HARD BRUSH

- Now you want to take your hard brush and brush off the dirt you just loosened with the curry comb
- Brush in the direction of your horse's hair coat growth, usually in short strokes from front to back
- Since this brush is a little bit rough, you want to be careful around the areas your horse can be a little more sensitive (their underbelly, their legs, etc.)



STEP FOUR: SOFT BRUSH

- Use your soft brush to go over the same areas you did with your hard brush
- You can also brush more sensitive areas like the head, while being careful to avoid your horse's eyes
- The soft brush removes finer particles and dust, adds a shine to the coat and is soothing to the horse



STEP FIVE: GROOM YOUR HORSE'S MANE AND TAIL

- For this step you want to take your mane and tail brush and brush through your horse's mane, tail, and forelock
- Some like to use a detangler on the tail
- Always start brushing at the bottom of the tail and *gently* brush your way up to untangle the tail
- For show horses with long tails, often the tail is picked out by hand to avoid breaking the hairs
- For horses with short, pulled manes, you can use a wide-toothed plastic or metal comb to groom the mane and forelock



SOURCES

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse_grooming
- <https://www.wikihow.com/Use-a-Curry-Comb-on-a-Horse>
- <https://www.usef.org/learning-center/videos/basic-horse-grooming>

