



Read Before Application - Quick Tips & Common Questions...

- 1) Hoof Armor is very liquid when it is dispensed from the tube. It comes out quickly.
- 2) You do not need to pull the trigger on the dispenser very hard for Hoof Armor to be dispensed.
- 3) **Eye protection is strongly suggested for first time users.**
- 4) Hoof Armor goes on very thinly. Like a varnish coat. Thicker is not better.
- 5) If Hoof Armor is applied too thickly it will not cure properly and will peel off.
- 6) Hoof Armor is exothermic and actually bonds to the outermost layer of the hoof. It is not just a coating where building it up would be of benefit. Because Hoof Armor behaves like the Periople on the front of the hoof, and protects the sole of the hoof from the wet/dry cycle, the hoof is allowed to be strengthened from the inside. And Hoof Armor, unless significant abrasive riding is done, remains with the hoof until the next trim.
- 7) Once Hoof Armor is applied, talcum powder should be applied liberally so that it coats all the areas that Hoof Armor has been applied to. Talcum creates a slippery barrier between Hoof Armor and hard flooring surfaces found in many barns. We recommend a horse be in a well bedded stall for a couple of hours to let Hoof Armor cure.
- 8) Hoof Armor goes on looking very shiny. That will change once the horse begins to travel. Hoof Armor will take on a matte appearance. Please do not think it is not there! If you do not see hoof wear, then Hoof Armor is doing its job in protecting the hoof. Sometimes wetting the hoof will allow you to still see shiny spots.
- 9) If a second coat is desired it can be applied 12-24 hours after the first.
- 10) Hoof Armor can be applied to the sole, frog (which is on the same plane as the sole), heel bulbs and up onto the front of the hoof to about where nail holes would be on a shod horse.
- 11) How dry should my horse's hooves be before applying Hoof Armor? If necessary, and the weather has been all rain, please keep the horse in a stall or enclosed area where it can stand in shavings or dry sand or dirt for 1-2 hours. Overnight, or for several hours, is optimal. Optionally, one can use a hair dryer or heat gun to dry the hooves beforehand.
- 12) Leave the last mix nozzle on the cartridge. **Do not re-use the original cap.** If you are experiencing a Kevlar clog. Straighten a paperclip and insert it into **just** the opening of the large side of the cartridge. You will need to remove the nozzle to do that. Hopefully, the flow will begin again.
- 13) Release the plunger pressure against the cartridge after application and before storage.
- 14) If necessary, Hoof Armor can be reapplied during a long ride just by wire brushing and cleaning the hoof, then reapplying.
- 15) Hoof Armor summer/winter application tip. Keep Hoof Armor cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Around 76°F (24.5°C) is optimal. Please do not let Hoof Armor sit in a hot vehicle!
- 16) In weather below freezing (32° F or 0°C) warm the hoof surface where Hoof Armor is to be applied using a hair dryer or heat gun until warm to the touch and warm the cartridge using the same method.
- 17) Hoof Armor is successfully used on barefoot, booted and shod horses.

Hoof Armor: The All-Season Hoof Protection

By David Jones



Winter

After lots of years of farrier work, I know that each season has its own challenges as far as traditional hoof protection - horseshoes and rubber boots. I am sure horse owners are aware that in the northern U.S. most horses will have their shoes pulled for the winter. In the snow belt I remember pulling shoes in October and saying goodbye to the horse until May. With three feet of snow on the ground it was "out of sight, out of mind". Some farriers up north spent the time making horseshoes for spring; some went on welfare for the winter. Rubber Boots are temporary protection and, besides falling off, will retain moisture.

There is a reason for pulling shoes...they come off. If the snow does not pull them off, the mud will. Also, if they do stay on snow will ball up under the hoof by catching on the interior ledge making upside-down snow cones which make it very difficult and dangerous for horses to walk. Unless hooves are trimmed throughout the winter, they will be chipped and broken in spring. I remember trying to put toe-weight shoes and pads on Saddlebreds in spring...not much left to nail to.

In contrast, Hoof Armor will protect the hoof throughout the winter. Nothing to fall off, nothing to make snowballs and a preventative for chipping provided the hooves are trimmed regularly. The non-stick surface prevents snow from sticking and keeps excess moisture from weakening the hoof. Any snow that packs in the hoof ends up coming out in the form of a puck!

Spring

When we are just done dealing with Winter's excessive moisture, along comes a wet spring. Here again, Hoof Armor protects the bottom of the hoof from excessive moisture just as the periople, the shiny coating which naturally grows on the top surface of a hoof, seals out excessive moisture. Probably the worst for hoof health is alternating wet/dry periods. This leads to brittleness and small cracks. Hoof Armor allows the hoof to maintain its internal moisture level by protecting the sole. It is similar to the protection the periople affords the rest of the hoof.

Summer

Next comes summer and maybe a drought. The hooves dry out and try to shrink. Have you ever watched a fresh hoof trimming laid out in the sun? It goes from hoof shaped to a shrunken pretzel shape. A hoof would do that too, if it did not have the periople to help maintain the existing moisture in the hoof. Hoof Armor in this case, assists the sole in keeping ground moisture levels from negatively affecting the hoof so it remains healthy throughout the dry periods.

Autumn

Autumn can again be excessively wet but the anti-microbial elements in Hoof Armor will help prevent bacteria from attacking the hoof. White Line Disease can be made up of any combination of over 40 fungi, aerobic bacteria or anaerobic bacteria. Hoof Armor has been used to cure White Line Disease and even toenail canker in an elephant. Hoof Armor, along with regular natural hoof trimming, is the way to keep hooves in top shape year-round.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH HOOF ARMOR! SEND PHOTOS!

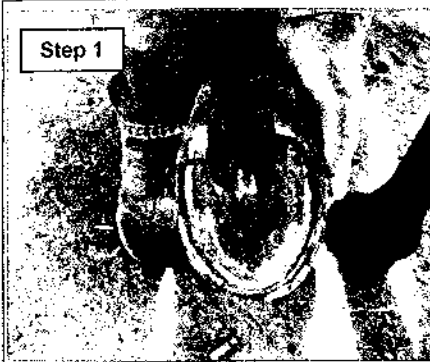


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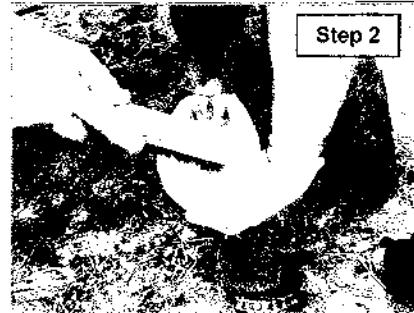
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Hoof Armor® Application Sequence



Step 1

Step 1) The hoof is first trimmed, rasped flat and balanced as required. Please do not pare the sole. It is the horse's natural stone protection.
Note: Professional farrier services or expertise are highly recommended.



Step 2

Step 2) The hoof is wire or stiff bristle brushed and thoroughly cleaned.



Step 3

Step 3) A few beads of Hoof Armor formula are applied (sparingly) over the desired areas. Hoof Armor can be used on the hoof walls, sole, frog, heel bulbs and up onto the dorsal surface about one-quarter to one-half inch.



Step 4

Step 4(a)

Step 4) The Hoof Armor bead is spread so that it's evenly applied in a **THIN** layer which cures to the bottom of the hoof. The Coating should appear like a thin varnish



Step 4(b)

coat. Hoof Armor can be applied to White Line separations and the collateral groove for infection prevention.



Step 5

Step 5) Talcum Powder

If applying Hoof Armor to a horse standing on concrete floors or rubber mats, the hoof should be liberally sprinkled with talcum powder, after Hoof Armor is applied, but before placing the hoof down.

This will prevent Hoof Armor from smearing on any hard surface before it can cure completely.

Talcum is used because it is slippery and will create a protective barrier between the Hoof Armor and the hard surface.

If applying in a soil or sandy location the hoof can just be placed down.

If desired multiple coats of Hoof Armor may be applied 12-24 hours apart.



Critical Tips on Use:

In weather below freezing (32°F or 0°C) warm the hoof surface where Hoof Armor® is to be applied using a heat source (hair dryer or heat gun) until warm to the touch and warm the cartridge using the same method or by keeping it in your pocket.

Do not put iodine, formalin, acetone, petroleum products, Venice Turpentine, hoof oils or dressings on the intended hoof surface.

A covering of talc or similar powder on uncured Hoof Armor will prevent coating loss if the horse is standing on concrete or rubber mats. Talc is slippery and will prevent smearing of Hoof Armor before it is cured. Alternatively, the hoof can be put down in sand or soft dirt. This will adhere to the outside of the Hoof Armor and will quickly wear off.

If possible, do not allow the Hoof Armored horse to continue standing on a concrete, rubber or other hard surface after application is complete.

Complete cure time for Hoof Armor is 12-24 hours.

If desired or necessary due to riding or surface conditions, additional coatings can be applied in the field after simply cleaning the base coat with a wire brush or other stiff bristle brush and reapplying.

It is recommended to keep Hoof Armor at between 50 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit (10 to 26.5 degrees Celsius) when storing.

Common Questions and Solutions:

Question 1: The Hoof Armor peels off.

Solution:

✦ The surface was not properly prepared. Hoof Armor will stick to whatever it is applied - loose sole, dust, or dirt. Wire brush or sandpaper the surface to clean thoroughly. Repeated Hoof Armor applications will help exfoliate a flaky sole until it is a solid surface.

✦ Applying too thick a coating of Hoof Armor will cause it to peel. As Hoof Armor is embedded into the top layer of the sole due to exothermic curing, Hoof Armor only needs to be applied in a very thin coating. Additional coats can be applied after 24 hours if desired.

Question 2: The Hoof Armor does not appear to be on anymore.

Solution:

Hoof Armor is a thin, clear coating that may not appear shiny once the horse begins to travel, particularly if it has been roughened by dirt and sand. However, as the Hoof Armor is embedded in the sole, it will still be protecting. If the surface is wetted, it should appear shinier than a normal hoof, showing that the Hoof Armor is still on.

Hoof Armor at...
Tevis Cup 2012-Jazz (Morgan) & Tera at Cougar Rock
2011 Presidents Cup in Abu Dhabi
2010 WEG
2007 Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race
2013 FHA 100
(1st Place, Light-weight division, Tennessee Walker)



Barefooting Your Horse

The Hoof Armor system of hoof care is intended to work with nature to encourage the hoof to be as strong and healthy as it can become. The hoof is a marvel of complexity developed over generations for amazing functionality. We believe hoof care should be simple and conservative.

As every hoof is different, the Hoof Armor trimming technique simply and conservatively balances the hoof to its natural conformation by learning to read the hoof and allowing it to tell us what it needs.

Hoof Armor hoof protection is simply an adhesive coating that protects the bottom of a horse's hoof from excessive wear and chipping. It is more flexible than the hoof so it is not restrictive. Hoof Armor allows natural expansion for optimum circulation and hoof health. Hoof Armor protects the hoof while it becomes stronger.

Hoof Armor hoof protection is part of a hoof maintenance system that includes proper trimming and conditioning of the hoof for continual improvement of appearance and performance just as we would condition the rest of the horse. Thank you for barefootin' with the Hoof Armor Hoof Care System.

Barefooting Your Horse:

Unlike horseshoes, Hoof Armor protects the sole of the hoof; the part that gets stone bruised. The thickness of the hoof sole is the key to stone insensitivity, just like humans. Think of walking over stones with socks versus boots. Hoof Armor can be used in a progressive conditioning program to enable your horse to comfortably and safely go barefoot. Along with a proper trimming routine where the sole is not carved concave and all hoof wall edges are rounded, Hoof Armor is used to help the sole grow thicker enabling it to help the hoof wall support the horse's weight and to provide protection from stones. Besides the protection from wear and chipping provided by the Hoof Armor; the sole support, by distributing the weight over a larger area, will prohibit the hoof wall, particularly when thin, from cracking and chipping. After horseshoes are removed, it may take as much as two or three applications of Hoof Armor over as many trimming cycles to grow enough sole thickness for the horse to be insensitive to stones and sharp surfaces. You will notice a difference in the way your horse moves as he feels his footing.

Just because your horse takes a misstep every so often, doesn't mean that he is lame or generally tender over rocks. He's just saying, "Ouch, that was a sharp one" and avoiding stepping on something that could damage his hoof. We do the same thing. Now that your horse can feel his feet, it is natural for him to protect them by not putting all his weight on something sharp. Make sense?

Thin Hoof Walls:

The real problem with thin hoof walls is that the hoof wall alone is not meant to support the entire weight of the horse. Hoof Armor is used to grow thicker sole which helps the hoof wall carry the weight. This weight distribution allows the hoof wall to grow and maintain without splitting and cracking, both with barefoot or shod horses.

Navicular:

Navicular syndrome is caused by contracted heels pinching the flexor tendon at the navicular bone. Hoof Armor® can be used as a component in a hoof improvement and maintenance program. The flexibility of Hoof Armor® will allow the hoof to expand naturally and, with proper trimming, will allow the heels to expand, thereby widening the navicular channel. Depending on the age of the horse and the level of deterioration, this technique can retard and sometimes stop the effects and pain of navicular.



How to Use Hoof Armor



Step 1. Two pieces of dispenser, body and plunger. Place thumb under silver tab. Also the ridges of the plunger should be facing down.



Step 2. While lifting up on the silver tab begin sliding the plunger into the dispenser gun.



Step 3: Continue sliding the plunger into the dispenser until fully inserted.



Step 4. Empty assembled dispenser.



Step 5. Black clip closed.



Step 6. Flip open black clip.



Step 7. Slip cartridge into dispenser matching large and small openings in the cartridge with the large and small openings in the dispenser.



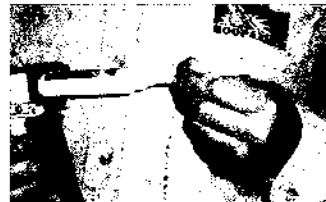
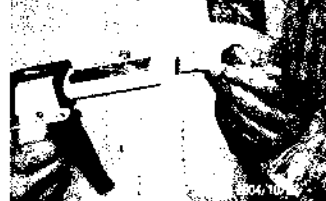
Step 8: Snap black clip closed.



Step 9: Remove small cap from end of product cartridge by turning the cap a quarter turn counter clockwise.



Step 10: Add mix nozzle to end of the product cartridge by turning the mix nozzle a quarter turn clockwise. It should lock into place.



One mix nozzle should be used per foot. There is very little Hoof Armor which remains in the mix nozzle as most of the mix nozzle is filled with plastic mixing channels. Hoof Armor will set up in a mix nozzle between feet. When you are done applying Hoof Armor to the last hoof you can leave the last mix nozzle on the product cartridge until the next time you apply Hoof Armor.

