

# Why do I need a flyveil for my horse?

Domesticated horses living on their own can fare badly; for those with tiny forelocks, trimmed manes and shortened tails the relentless bombardment of flies is a daily torment from which there's no escape. A horse standing with its head down and a black cluster of flies crowding its eyes might appear to be basking in the sun, indifferent to the flies, but it may be resigned and miserable.



Discomfort isn't the only issue; flies landing on manure, rubbish and other bacteria-laden objects then settling in the corners of a horse's eyes can make them sore and mucky; the mucous membranes can become inflamed, leading to possible infection. Wiping the horse's eyes twice daily with a clean, damp cloth dipped in plain or mildly salt water will help reduce inflammation and infection, which also attracts more flies.

***A FLYVEIL, worn during the days when flies are active and 'sticky', is the best protection for a horse's eyes, especially one that will give up to 70% UV protection.***

A flyveil is a mask used on horses to cover the eyes, jaw, and sometimes the ears and nose to protect from flies and UV light. Quality flyveils are made from see through mesh allowing the horse to see and hear while wearing it.

Because the paddocked horse wearing a flyveil may not be visited every day, safety and comfort are far more important than fashion. Ideally masks should be put on in the morning and removed at night to minimise the risk of injury, sore spots and reduced night vision. Nightly removal of a flyveil also gives the horse owner an opportunity to ensure that no injuries or infections are evident and, if they are, to treat them immediately.



Great care should be taken to ensure that a flyveil fits correctly: if too tight it may rub and cause sore spots; if too loose flies may become trapped inside, or it may catch on something and cause injury if the horse pulls away. Fitting a flyveil is a bit like fitting a bridle; it should fit snugly and comfortably behind the ears and around the face, and be loose enough so the horse can eat comfortably, but not gaping. The mesh should not touch the horse's eyes. For grey horses and those with pink skin on the

muzzle, flyveils with nose covers protect these delicate areas from sunburn.

Horses are individuals and what suits one may not be the optimum for another, but whatever your style, colour, or shape preference, the important aspect is to select the most comfortable option that is well-fitting, effective, cool and the least annoying and obtrusive to the horse.

**For top quality Flyveils By Design flyveils, please visit your leading saddlery store. Ask for them by name.  
[www.flyveilsbydesign.com.au](http://www.flyveilsbydesign.com.au)**

