



Your Horse Deserves A Mud Free Hang Out Build Your Own Heavy Use Area



Step 1 Select the Best Site

Highest & driest ground, closest to your barn or stable. Fairly level is best so the turds don't roll down the hill.

Step 2 Size it up for your farm and animals

Suggested 700 Sq ft for a 15 hand tall horse. Materials cost, number of horses, and available space factor in to your decision.

Step 3 Eliminate Water Intrusion

This is the time to tame the water. Install gutters with downspouts for shelter or barn roof channeling the downspouts away from the pad or connect to an underground outlet.



Step 4 Grade the Area

Two choices here. Either dig down 6 inches and then grade the area or you can grade the existing surface and install a retention frame around the pad high enough to hold into footing. When you grade the pad make sure it has a 1 to 2% slope away from your barn or shelter. That means the soil must drop about 1.25—2.5 inches every 10 feet. Make sure the grading will send the water to a place it can safely go and be absorbed by the soil. Preferably to a grassy strip to absorb it.

Step 5 Installing the Footing

Here's where you make your choices based on horse numbers, budget and daily maintenance availability.

Step 6

Install a retention perimeter— pressure treated lumber, or extend the cloth or carpet out so it can be wrapped upward to retain the base. This is vital to prevent the gravel base from migrating into soil.

Step 7

Spread the footing to proper depth and pack accordingly.

Step 8

Water from your HUA needs to go somewhere. It is recommended to keep a grassy area where the water sheds off to and your horses can't disturb it, called a filter strip. The grass takes up nutrients from your horses manure and urine, providing a great filter.

Base - Soil Pad Cleared & Graded	Overlay Material protecting integrity of gravel.	Depth required of footing material	Pros & Cons
Gravel	Geotextile Fabric (road fabric) Or used carpet placed upside-down directly on soil.	6 inches total Lay down 4" of gravel, hand pack, add 2 more inches of gravel, water in and repack.	Permanent
Hog Fuel	No Fabric or carpet needed	At least 12 inches total depth	Needs Replacement every few years
Sand	Geotextile Fabric Or used carpet placed upside-down directly on soil.		Pro: Good For Hooves, horses can lie down on. Con: tracks into stalls, breaks down, odor builds up and should never be fed on.



Grids and Footing Cells

These are a great, but a spendier option as well.