

PINE SHAVINGS USED AS BEDDING FOR OUR HORSE STALLS

Traditionally, wheat and oat straw had been used to this end but veterinary and economic studies have highly recommended the use of pine shavings for the following reasons:

- a)** Due to its increased capacity for absorbency, hoof hygiene is favoured because it is exposed to chemical and biological attacks due to the bedding (ammonia originating from the fermentation of urine and anaerobic pathological agents that proliferate when feces accumulate)
- b)** The use of shavings enables greater guarantees when it comes to regulating horse nutrition in an individual manner as straw, being an edible substrate, making animals prone to ingesting it without restraint. When conditions of cleanliness are precarious, this practice could entail a risk factor from a clinical standpoint.
- e)** Pine shavings are more comfortable to handle than straw when it comes to storage, enabling compression for its packing, and consequently, smoother management of waste brought about by beddings owing to, on the one hand, its own weight as well as the inevitable outcome of waste called manure which contributes to a lesser amount of waste generation.
- d)** ÉGiven that the majority of equestrian and horse breeding centres are managed by third-party or subcontracted companies, the properties of the shavings result in maximizing the management of space utilization by cutting expenses – liquidation is normally collected per kilogram of waste collection and disposal, or it is prorated based on the number of containers to be hauled -
- e)** The greater absorbency of shavings also has an impact on the possible discomfort caused by odours (let us not forget that we are talking about big animals and stalls are common in urban nucleus not far from highly populated towns and cities).