

BELMONDO® rubber flooring in the loosebox – tips on bedding and management

Interlocking mats are ideal for the horse loosebox. They are easy to install, remove and extend. Some horse owners worry whether the system could become unhygienic if liquids seep through. But on the contrary...



Dry and hygienic

Compared to a conventional straw box, the “rubber mat with reduced bedding” system even **leads to a proven lower germ load because it is drier on the whole¹⁾**. What’s more, this system creates less dust and manure, resulting in a healthier stable environment.

It all depends on the right installation

Rubber is a **natural product that expands when it is warm** and contracts when it is cold. In order for BELMONDO® interlocking mats to lie stably, they need sufficient “freedom of movement” for temperature variations. A prerequisite for the functionality of the interlocking surface is a **lateral expansion joint of approx. 2 cm to the loosebox wall**.

Recommendations for basic bedding with straw

The interlocking mats’ joints narrow in the course of use and also due to thermal expansion of the material. **Long straw alone usually absorbs too slowly** – regardless of whether you manage the box with or without rubber mats. Especially right after mat installation, it is helpful to add more **absorbent, finer material to the straw bedding**. The horses then kick the fine components of the bedding into the joints between the interlocking mats.

Soft rubber flooring combined with reduced amounts of bedding can save work and costs while improving horse welfare. The savings potential individually depends on the management, the type of bedding used and the respective animal. In addition, rubber mats also permanently fulfil other important functions of the floor, such as improved grip, softness and insulation.



¹⁾ Source: Prof. Dr. B. Benz et al. (2013): Weniger Einstreu bei gleichem Komfort. In: Pferde Zucht & Haltung 1/2013, p. 66 et seqq.

