

Saddle Fit Q and A

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Q I want to make sure that my saddle panels stay smooth without any lumps or bumps. What is the best saddle rack to use when I am storing my saddle?

A The best kind of saddle rack is one that is the same length of the gullet, it can be either free-standing or wall mounted. The panels of the saddle should not be touching the saddle rack to maintain the form of the wool/air. When you are riding your horse the panels heat up from the horse's back. The warmed leather and wool could actually change shape to the shape of the rack if not allowed to cool before storing. The best materials for a saddle rack are materials that do not retain moisture because you do not want the leather to be damp while being stored as this could cause mold. Saddle racks should not have anything that protrudes into the gullet causing scuffing of the leather. Overall, the saddle rack should not interfere with the panels or the gullet, it should support the saddle from pommel to cantle. It is also a good idea to use a saddle cover to keep out excess dirt and moisture while the saddle is not in use. There are many good products available on the market that will help you store your saddle properly - for example, <http://www.doversaddlery.com/pvc-coated-double-saddle-rack/p/X1-27516/?ids=fftyyl55rutiyiblwrovgbm1> is simple, and based on the criteria above – perfect. There is also a 'Saddle Mattress' (www.saddlemattress.com) available which is preferable to simply using a conventional saddle rack, but again – best is to have nothing touching the panels at all to let them air out completely.



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