

KERALIT® HOOF HARDENER



*We make your horses
get on the winners!*



Horse hooves, shod or unshod, undergo strain from hard surfaces and the weight of a rider.

Hoof horn also suffers damage from decomposition products in stable bedding, for example from ammonia or hydrogen sulphide. This often leads to cracks, chipping, splitting, and even soft, rotting horn.

Barefoot horses often get small stones lodged in the white line area, as well as increased breakages and wear to the sole. They may also experience asymmetrical wear to the bearing edges. This can result in a weak, listless gait, misalignment, hoof corium irritations, or even hoof abscesses.

Riders with horses that are barefoot or transitioning (from shoes to barefoot) often are faced with the problem of horn growth being inconsistent with wear. This disproportion is also aggravated by cracks and from small stones getting into the white line area.

Here, too, hoof hardener can serve well by making the remaining horn substance significantly more stable and resilient. The transition will be made easier and shorter for the horse.

Horn damage begins at the bearing edge: feed supplements alone are not enough!

Horses are often given vitamins and trace elements to improve their horn quality. However, these are only helpful whilst the horn is developing and only if the horse is deficient in essential nutrients. Below the coronet, the horn consists of "dead cell material" which nutrients from the blood can no longer reach. It takes a year for healthy horn developing at the coronet to reach the bearing edge of the hoof. Both barefoot and shod horses experience hoof damage primarily at the bearing edge, white line, and nail area through the processes described above.

KERALIT HOOF HARDENER works directly on the bearing edge, sole and white line.



Use

Simply apply KERALIT HOOF HARDENER to the hoof with the included brush. The application of KERALIT HOOF HARDENER makes horn stronger and more durable. After just two weeks of use, you'll notice a slight shine to the horn as well as a more solid sound when the hoof strikes a hard surface. Horn abrasion will lessen, and the bearing edge, sole, and white line will become stronger and more resilient. The horse's shoes will fit more snugly. The hoof will also be less susceptible to the harmful impacts of microorganisms (white line disease), as they can no longer eat away at the horn. This is especially important in cases where the horn is already damaged. The remaining horn is stabilised and protected from further damage.



How does KERALIT HOOF HARDENER prevent hoof problems?

KERALIT HOOF HARDENER is a liquid formula which stabilises and hardens the proteins, particularly keratin, in hoof horn. The keratin molecules, as a main component of the horn, then form new bonds with neighbouring molecules and protein chains whilst an active ingredient protects existing bonds. The result is a real increase in hardness and resistance to abrasion in the hoof horn without negatively affecting the hoof mechanism or the natural water balance. Unlike UV gels, adhesives, oils or salves, KERALIT HOOF HARDENER leaves no water-impermeable coating.



KERALIT HOOF HARDENER stabilises only the keratin molecules directly on the horn surface so that the healthy stabilised horn layer is approx. 0.4-0.5 mm thick (see also Vet. med. Diss. B. Monhart, Zurich 2002).

Its liquid consistency can easily penetrate cracks and crevices to prevent further horn decay, even in areas where damage is concealed, for example beneath the horse shoe.

It stabilises only the horn that is directly exposed abrasion or harmful substances like ammonia, bacteria and fungi. It does not unnaturally harden or dry the horn, which would mean a reduction in hoof capsule elasticity.

Which horses can be treated with KERALIT HOOF HARDENER?

KERALIT HOOF HARDENER is suitable for all horses, ponies, donkeys, and other hoofed animals. It is also used to treat zoo animals including rhinoceroses and on tortoise shells.

- ▶ For hardening the bearing edges, soles and white lines of barefoot horses
- ▶ To reduce horn abrasion in horses with uneven hoof growth and poor horn quality
- ▶ For shod horses with loose shoes
- ▶ To preserve horn substance and horn capsules in cracked horn walls
- ▶ As an alternative to inserts for tender-footed horses
- ▶ For all horses with low heels and conformation defects
- ▶ For horses with white line disease
- ▶ To treat decaying, chipped hooves
- ▶ To harden the white line in horses with laminitis

Instructions for use

Please follow the instructions on the packaging. The following instructions are not intended to replace them. We will gladly send you new instructions if needed. You may also download the instructions for use of our Hoof Hardener from our website under "Service" (in the following languages: D, E, F, NL, IT, ES, SWE, DK, PL).

Apply KERALIT HOOF HARDENER to the bottom of the bearing edge and white line of barefoot horses and, for tender-footed horses, to the sole as well. From the side, apply to approx. the lower third of the hoof wall.

For shod horses apply to the hoof wall including nail holes. Allow the hoof hardener to enter old nail holes and beneath the shoe. If needed, treat the sole as well. This can replace the use of inserts and leather soles.

Apply 1-2 times per week. For extreme horn decay, begin with application every other day.

A 250 ml bottle is sufficient for approx. 3-4 months (warmblood, barefoot), 6 months for shod horses.

A frequently asked question (especially in internet forums) concerns the hardener's use on damp hooves.

The hoof hardener can be used on damp hooves without problem. However, the horn's absorption capacity will be limited, so that more frequent application is recommended (but with less product). Application to dripping wet or freshly oiled hooves is not recommended. In this case, wait 1 day before application.

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Can KERALIT HOOF HARDENER also be applied to the frog area?

The hardener is completely harmless to the frog horn. Constant use of the HOOF HARDENER on the frog is discouraged in the instructions for the following reason:

In contrast to the stratum lamellatum, frog horn is an amorphous, irregular soft horn with approx. 40% moisture content. Ideally, the frog should not have a rubbery consistency. The frog's hardness varies greatly with changing environmental conditions (rainy and dry periods). This is completely normal. In extreme dry conditions in summer the hoof horn, especially the soft horn of the frog, becomes considerably harder. The frog can then perform its shock-absorbing and expanding functions only to a limited extent, and the surface of the soft horn responds to the hoof hardener with stabilisation – undesirable for a frog substance that has already been hardened by drying. Therefore you may apply hoof hardener to the frog area if, indeed, it is too soft (if in doubt, ask your vet, farrier, or barefoot trimmer).



Pictures of Stefan Schmidt

Advanced decay process in the area of the white line and the frog.

After 5 weeks of treatment with KERALIT HOOF HARDENER and KERALIT FROG LIQUIDE