



American Stalls

HORSE STALLS 101

American Stalls understands the importance of your future horse stalls purchase. Horse stalls are one of the most significant capital investments you will make toward your horses' safety and your facility's financial health.

There are so many questions to ask yourself when considering a new barn whether that's a four-stall barn or 200-stall expo center. Before you make your investment, our team wants you to be well-informed. We want you to make the best of your hard-earned money.

That is why we have put together this guide that outlines frequently asked questions about horse stalls. Our team hopes that our years of knowledge can help you become an expert in horse stalls. This means everything from understanding the type of steel protecting your horses to installation procedures.

Our team is always here to provide assistance.

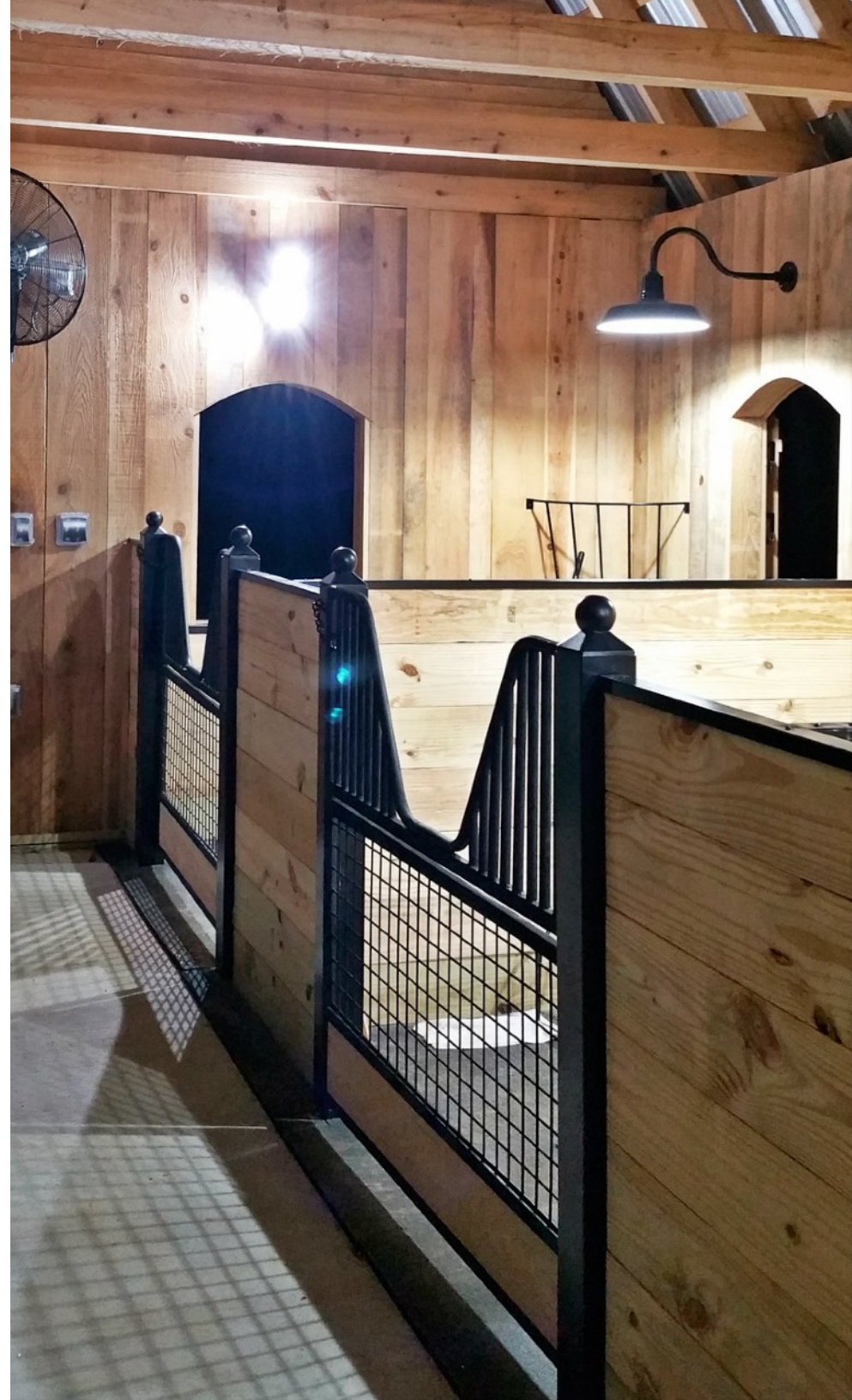
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THE CHECKLIST

- Heavy gauge steel parts**
Minimum 14-gauge frame
- No exposed sharp edges**
- Smoothly grounded welded joints**
- Thoroughly welded joints**
- Smooth, consistent finishes**
- Professional layout and planning**
- A knowledgeable design staff**
- Referrals and past projects**



Which type of stall is best for me?

We regularly receive phone calls from clients who are unsure about which type of stall is best for them. Last week, we received a call from a lady who had been clicking through our website and Pinterest for hours. Once she was done looking through the photos, she called to ask, “how do I know which style to choose?”

We completely understand the confusion because of the amount of clutter out on the web. We are sure you have seen the vague terms such as galvanizing, powder coating, yoke options, and euro stalls. Below are some surefire ways to help make sure you select the design and options that are right for you!

FIND THE RIGHT STALLS MANUFACTURER

Professional manufacturers should ask plenty of questions. A sales executive should ask about how you use your barn, what the weather is like in your area, if you are using a contractor, and about twenty other questions before they recommend any single design.

NEEDS FIRST, STYLE SECOND

We recommend starting with your needs first followed by style. It's easy to look at beautiful barn photos on Pinterest and say “I'd like the XYZ Series stalls.” However, we bet you and your horses will be happiest if you start by selecting a design that suits your most curious horse, or one that offers the most ventilation in your area's hot summers. Remember: Function first, design second.

CHOOSE OPTIONS YOU UNDERSTAND

It's easy to get swayed by words like “pre-galvanized” and “crosshatch.” Throw on the brakes and ask dozens of questions before making final decisions on your stalls. Make sure you understand you're really getting.

BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF ABOUT YOUR BUDGET

It's true that you get what you pay for. That's why – no matter the size of your budget – it's imperative to not skimp on the important things: ***strength, durability, and ease of daily use.*** Fancy designs are wonderful, but make sure an appropriate portion of your budget goes to the functional parts of your stalls. You'll be glad that you did.

Permanent Stalls vs. Portable Stalls



“Permanent” Horse Stalls



Portable Horse Stalls

The difference between permanent horse stalls and portable stalls is just how it sounds. **Permanent stalls** are stall structures that require existing support posts, contractors’ guidance, and barn foundation work to complete installation. Custom-designed stalls are a luxury, but they are the way to go if you have your heart set on a specific aesthetic. These stalls are fully customizable with the help of one of our in-house designers. Customization might include a sweeping European look, a unique finish, or working your barn’s unique dimensions. Custom-designed permanent horse stalls feature tongue and groove lumber as the primary interior material.

Portable horse stalls offer the best of both words: flexibility and durability. That being said, do your research on stall manufacturers. You never want to sacrifice quality for the flexibility in design. Portable stalls allow you the freedom to place stalls in any configuration depending on your barn’s dimensions. This flexibility in design also allows you to add stalls down the road as your facility grows. Portable stalls work especially well in clear-span or free-standing buildings – offering a safe and economical choice for a fraction of what it would cost to go custom.

Permanent Stalls vs. Portable Stalls

Permanent Stalls Continued...



Permanent Stalls vs. Portable Stalls

Portable Stalls Continued...

Customers have various options when it comes to “portable” horse stalls. You can find portable stalls that require **lumber** or “**puck board.**” These stalls are dubbed “portable” because they can be installed anywhere, in any configuration. Lumber and “puck board” materials add durability, but also tack on significant weight. These heavy-duty portable stalls make for a tougher take down if you operate a horse show that requires different stall set-ups. However, they get the job done if you intend on leaving these stalls in place for an extended period of time.

**American
Stalls
EDGE**

American Stalls also offers our durable, sturdy nylon material in addition to lumber or puck boards. Our **nylon-webbed vinyl** allows each horse stall panel to remain lightweight at 110 lbs. This makes set-up and take down a job for two individuals – eliminating the need for heavy machinery.

In any case, do not mistake the term “portable” for “weak or fragile.” American Stalls’ portable horse stalls are built to last. We use a minimum **14-gauge steel** frame to withstand the rigors of any everyday equestrian usage. Our Show Series portable stalls provide you flexibility, durability, and long-term peace of mind.



THE STEEL

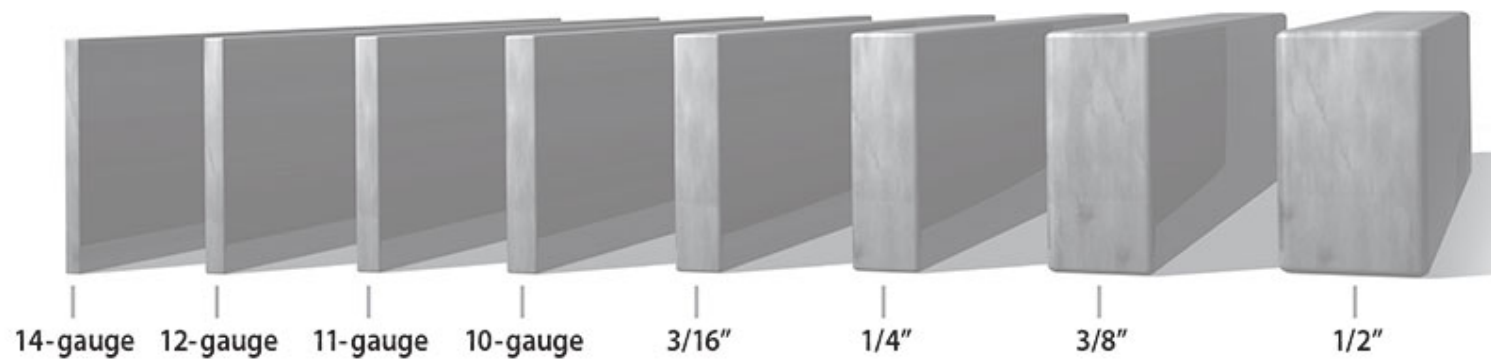
There's plenty of confusing terminologies in the horse stall industry. We understand that the majority of customers do not come from a steel background. One of the questions that we often receive is **“what is a steel gauge?”**

STEEL GAUGES

- Gauges are used to specify the thickness of a sheet metal.
- Gauges are neither standard or metrics – the values are independent of those measurement systems
- A gauge conversion chart can be used to determine the actual thickness of sheet metal in inches or millimeters. For example, 18 gauge steel is 0.0478 in or 1.214 mm. Hence, the gauge number “18” holds no relevance to the actual measurements.
- The lower the gauge, the thicker the steel. For example, 12-gauge steel is thicker than 14-gauge steel.

To simply, we primarily use two types of steel gauges. We utilize 14-gauge steel for our portable horse stalls to achieve lightweight design and ultimate durability. We utilize 12-gauge steel for our permanent stalls since owners tend to drill these stalls into the foundations of their barns.

STEEL GAUGE THICKNESS



THE COATING

There's a variety of options in the horse stall industry when it comes to paints and other coatings. Get the most out of your hard-earned money by understanding the pros and cons of every viable option in the market. Below, we explain the differences in **hot-dip galvanizing**, **electroplating**, and **powder coating**.

3 FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

1. **APPEARANCE** – How important is a smooth, seamless appearance for your facility's overall aesthetics?
2. **ENVIRONMENT** – What is your surrounding environment like? Do you have excess amounts of moisture or salt in your area?
3. **MAINTENANCE** – Are you willing to perform occasional maintenance on your equipment?

HOT DIP GALVANIZING

Hot dip galvanizing will provide the best protection from rust. This process creates a thick, scratch-resistant and virtually rust-proof coating – even in coastal areas that receive regular salt exposure.

American Stalls first completely constructs, welds, and cleans our equine equipment. Then, the entire product is submerged into a bath of molten zinc. This zinc bonds to the steel which creates several layers of zinc-iron alloy. This creates the easy-identifiable crystallized pattern that covers the surface.

ELECTROPLATING

Also known as “electro galvanizing,” this process is when steel is electroplated with a pure zinc coating. This process occurs when we run a current of electricity through a zinc solution with a zinc anode and steel conductor.

This process is not commonly used in horse stall equipment. However, we do use this process to manufacture our racetrack style Stall Gates. Electroplated steel is less resistant to rust than hot dip galvanizing, but it produces a more aesthetically pleasing surface.

POWDER COATING

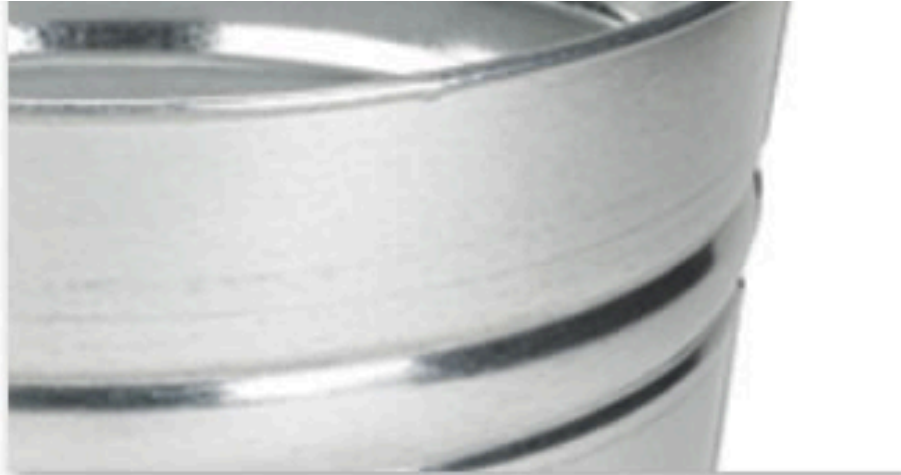
Powder coating is superior to all other forms of paint application when it comes to stalls – leading to the smoothest, most uniform finish. Before coating, we ensure that our steel is grind down to ensure a smooth, consistent finish. This coating forms a smooth protective “skin” over the equipment's steel.

When properly taken care of, high quality powder coated finishes last several years. American Stalls offers two standard colors (black and bronze) and a total of 65 speciality colors.

THE COATING



HOT DIP GALVANIZING



ELECTROPLATED



**POWDER
COATING**

SETTING UP YOUR HORSE STALLS

We can't speak for other manufacturers, but most horse stalls are fairly simple to put together regardless of whether they are permanent stalls or portable stalls. **For permanent stalls**, we prepare our stall equipment with pre-drilled holes to ensure easy installation. Additionally, we work with you, your local builder, or contractor to manufacture stalls that are best-suited for your barn's specific measurements. Our team is always here to help and provide expert recommendations.

Our portable stalls are well-known among the horse industry for being the most simple to install. Our record time to set-up one portable horse stall was four minutes (with two individuals). Now that's fast! Our portable stalls go together easily with our connectivity systems. Both systems provide structural integrity to allow for a free-standing stall. These connection systems give you the ability to change up the stall layout as you see fit – now that's the true definition of portable!



Portable Stalls: Connector Pins System



Portable Stalls: Pin & Cup System

TAKING CARE OF YOUR FINISH

Horse stall maintenance is always a hot topic among barn owners. After all, your horse stall equipment is a long-term capital investment. That's why it's crucial to carefully choose your materials and finishes.

You can also improve the long-term performance of any stall equipment by consistent, routine maintenance. Keep your stalls looking new by avoiding scratches with hooks and hardware. Hang lead ropes and halters on hooks that keep hardware from paint finishes. Additionally, be sure your barn is well-ventilated. As your horse breathes, he or she releases carbon dioxide and water into the air – producing anywhere between 35-50 lbs. of damp manure per day. That puts a lot of moisture into the air; moisture can lead to rust. This is why great ventilation is key as it prevents rust.

THE BEST WAYS TO CLEAN STALL EQUIPMENT

To maintain a solid finish, it's crucial to regularly clean your stall equipment. However, be mindful of how you clean your horse stall equipment and what tools and cleaners you use. Never pressure-wash stalls with lumber or vinyl. The intense pressure can degrade the wood. Additionally, the pressure can cause the vinyl's nylon webbing and colors to degrade over time.

When cleaning the actual steel frame and bars, we recommend using water and a mild dishwashing liquid. We highly discourage the use of abrasive cleaners, TSP or ammonia. Lastly, leave those wire brushes and steel wool to the side and clean with a soft cloth.






BOLD. SIMPLE. SECURE.



Have questions? Contact us today!

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