

STABLE PLAN



◀ A continuous ridge skylight running the length of the roof keeps the barn interior bright without using electricity.

best in areas where they're switched on and off infrequently. If the lights are up high, this type can provide adequate light and be relatively efficient. Using a three-way switch at or near the stall front allows you to light half the barn or the entire barn, depending on need.

Stall lighting should employ a switch for each stall and typically a light on each side to reduce shadows while working with a horse. Again, a shatterproof lens, cage protection, or both is vital for

your horses' safety.

Typically, fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate and create fewer fire risks than do incandescent lights. Drawbacks include more expensive fixtures and the need for ballasts if cold weather is a factor. Still, there are opportunities to use more energy-efficient bulbs. Timers or motion detectors can help eliminate unnecessary use in places like bathrooms and storage rooms.

It's important to keep in mind details like using conduit to protect wiring from gnawing mice, and keeping switches away from horses. Recess lighting at lower heights, and always use protective lenses or cages on bulbs, as well as explosion-proof switches and outlets. 🐾

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Lighten Up

BY JOHN BLACKBURN

When it comes to light, there's nothing like the real thing. Relying less on electricity saves money and energy, and plentiful natural light fosters a healthy environment for you and your horses. Plus, fewer electric lights reduce fire hazards. Here are a few strategies to light up your barn the natural way.

One of the most efficient ways to brighten your barn is with a continuous ridge skylight. This type of skylight runs the length of the barn, typically above the center aisle, and fills the barn with light. In a well-designed barn, continuous vents along the skylight allow for increased air circulation, as well.

Other high-placed windows, especially around the barn's eaves, provide additional lighting. As a general rule, the higher the window is placed, the deeper the light penetrates the barn. High window placement also reduces injury risk by keeping glass away from

the horses. At the same time, the use of shatterproof glass is imperative.

Light finishes on the glass can serve a dual purpose if soft or translucent colors are chosen. The finish reflects and diffuses light while concealing bird droppings and dirt, though periodic maintenance is still required. Additional lighting can be added with translucent glazing above stall doors and along the exterior. If the glazing is placed higher than 10 feet—preferably 12 feet—it can be used around horses safely. However, glazing near the horses should be safety glass or, better yet, translucent plastic material, which is safer and often less expensive.

Electric lighting varies from general (in aisles) to specific (in stalls). Safety is critical, but it's also important to select the right type of light. Metal halide provides good general lighting, but lens protection is paramount. These lights take a moment to warm up, so they function