

Water

Horses should preferably have **free access to water**, and shouldn't be without water for more than four hours.

How to do it properly...

- Horses prefer to drink from an open **water surface**, but learn easily to drink from a water cup.
- Watering equipment should be kept clean and placed in a way that minimizes **contamination**.
- Automatic drinking systems should be **checked daily** and should have water flow of approx. 8 litres per minute to ensure sufficient water intake.
- Under temperatures below zero, extra precautions should be taken, e.g. by providing heated watering equipment or a regular supply of liquid water.
- In group housing, paddocks and pasture there should be **sufficient drinking space** to avoid competition and aggression among horses.



! Horses prefer to drink from an open water surface. You can see a photo of a water cup in the guide.

How much water does a horse drink?

Horses will typically drink 5 - 10 % of their bodyweight daily. The amount they will drink will depend mainly on the level of activity, ambient temperature, and water content of the feed. Lactating mares and horses with a high level of activity, such as racehorses, may drink more.