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How to Measure for Blankets

Measurement A: The first measurement is the long measurement along the side of the horse. (See Sketch)

- Start at the center of the chest where the top buckle of a sheet would be.
- Lay the tape around the point of the shoulder, aiming for the point of the hip and the point of the rump. This is a slight upward direction.
- Wrap the tape the rump toward the tail. **Stop where the hair of the tail lies against the butt.** (Sketch #2)
- For a horse, this measurement should be 74" to 84". Small ponies are usually under 64". Medium ponies are usually 64" to 68". Large ponies are usually 68" to 74".

Measurements B, C, and D: The next 3 measurements all start at the same place. These should start in front of the wither. (Sketch #3)

Measurement B: From the dip in front of the wither lay the tape along the spine to the top of the tail. This number will be roughly 20" less than measurement A.

Measurement C: From the same dip in front of the wither lay the tape along the neck in front of the shoulder muscle to where the top buckle of a sheet will lay. This one measurement is vital for proper fit. If you continued this measurement around the other side the tape would form a V. **PLEASE DO NOT ADD TO THIS.** This number seldom exceeds 32" for a horse; it is usually 25" to 30". It should be even smaller for ponies. The most common measurement error is making this number too big.

Measurement D: From the same point in front of the wither let the tape drop toward the ground. Look for the spot below the elbow that if continued to the back would cover the belly. (Usually 2" - 3" below the elbow.)

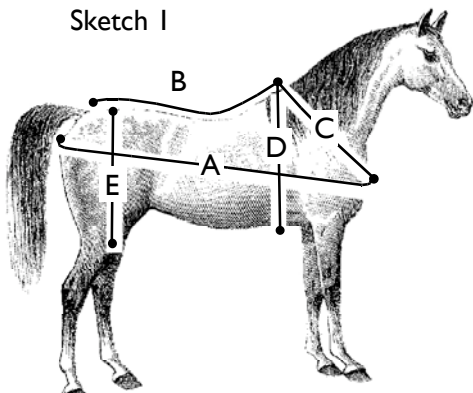
Measurement E: This measurement is the most subjective, but also the easiest for us to correct if necessary.

Measurement E: The last measurement is the backdrop. Start the tape at the spine at the highest point of the rump. Let the tape drop toward the ground and try to match the line you picked in the front.

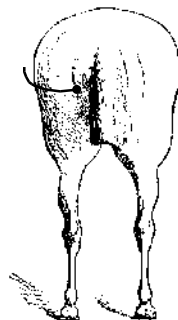
Averages for these measurements are as follows (horses only):

- Measurement A on a horse should be in the mid 70's to low 80's
- Measurement B (Top of the back) should be in the 50's
- Measurement C (1/2 of the neck) should be mid 20's to low 30's
- Measurement D (The front drop) should be in the 30's
- Measurement E (The drop in the back) should be 2" - 3" more than the front.

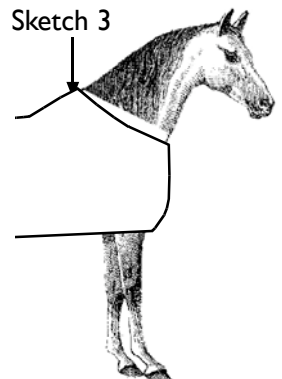
Sketch 1



Sketch 2



Sketch 3





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More Notes About Measuring Your Horse

**VITAL: WE WANT ONLY ACTUAL MEASUREMENTS.
WE ADD TO YOUR MEASUREMENTS FOR THE PROPER FIT.**

COMMON PROBLEMS

1. Your horse is a pet and you have no one to hold him. He has his nose in your pocket. This can shorten the long measurement by 3" to 6".
Cure: Measure him on crossties or wait until someone can hold him.
2. Your horse is ticklish. He wiggles his skin and bows away from you. This will also shorten the length.
Cure: Measure him over a VERY light sheet (and let us know that you did that).
3. He seems relaxed and easy. However, he is a very large horse and measures like a pony.
Cure: Measure on both sides. If still unsure, put him away and try again later and see if you get the same numbers. Some tall horses still wear small sizes (and vice versa)- since the size is more closely related to length than height.

*When these things happen to me I measure one side then immediately measure the other side.
If the difference is small use the largest. If there is a great difference average the two numbers.
If one side says 74" and the other size is 80" go with a 78".*

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN MEASURING

- *The tape does tickle, so keep a firm hand on his side.
- *NEVER use a metal tape. Even the most quiet of horses will be jumpy with a metal tape.
- *If no cloth tape is available use string, then measure the string.

COMMON FITTING PROBLEMS

A common problem that may apply to your horse is one that has no sure cure, but this may help. Sheets and blankets slide back as the horse moves. This causes rubs on the withers and point of the shoulder

1. If the neckline is moved forward and made smaller there is a chance that we can avoid this problem. **Therefore when you measure the neck, be certain to keep the tape in front of the shoulder.** We add to this measurement from 2" to 4", to allow freedom of movement. Please do not add to it as well!
2. If you feel that you want more protection we can line the fronts of stable sheets with satin and put fleece at the wither.
3. You can also consider using some sort of elastic girth or body roller.

Another problem is sheets twisting around to the side, or horses that turn around and grab the sheet and pull it forward, sometimes even over their heads.

1. Both of these problems are solved by putting leg straps on the sheet.