

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Industrial Hemp?

- A. Hemp is a distinct variety of the plant species *Cannabis sativa* L. that grows to a height anywhere from 3-4.5 m and up to 2-3 cm in diameter. The plant consists of an inner layer called the pith surrounded by woody core fiber, which is often referred to as hurds. Bast fibers form the outer layer. The primary bast fibers are used for textiles, cordage, and fine paper products. The wood-like core fiber is used for animal bedding, garden mulch, fuel, and an assortment of building materials.

Due to the similar leaf shape, hemp is frequently confused with marijuana, another cannabis plant. The major difference is their tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content, the ingredient that produces the high when smoked. Marijuana can contain as much as 20% THC, compared to less than 0.35% for industrial hemp.

Q: How does hemp assist as Animal Bedding?

- A. Hemp is a premium animal bedding and 80% of all hurd production in Europe currently goes into pet bedding. Hemp absorbs 5 times more waste than other bedding materials yet decomposes 2 times faster after use. This makes hemp very good for use as a fertiliser after being used for bedding. Yes, it is a little more expensive than other bedding materials but reduced labor costs over time make Hemp more affordable over all, and better for your pets.

Q: Is Hemp safe as horse bedding?

- A. Hemp fibres and hurds (the woody centre of the plant stems) produce far less dust than hay or straw and so are better for the lungs of the animals and their owners. Hemp is also less prone to harbouring mould and fungus than other bedding materials.

Dust and spores have been removed from Hemparade and Biobase through a unique dust extraction process, so the product is virtually dust-free. Ideal for horses with allergy or respiratory problem.

Q: How much hemp bedding is required for 3.6 x 3.6 (12 foot square) stall?

- A. It takes around 8-10 bales of Hemparade or Biobase to create the initial bed in a typical 3.6 x 3.6 meter stable, gives a depth of approximately 20 cm.

Q: How effective is hemp bedding for odours control?

- A. Hemp is super absorbent and is a natural anti-bacterial. Hemparade or Biobase bedding will soak up liquids like a natural sponge and protect against unpleasant odours. The open structure and pores of the hemp ensures excellent ventilation, putting an end to unpleasant smells caused by rotting and fermenting of bedding. Absorption takes place in depth, retaining urine and odours at the bottom of the bedding. The bedding stays dry and odourless. High absorbency means higher salvage rate, as it absorbs 5x its weight, saving time and money, considering the time spend scooping out.

Q: Will my horse be comfortable on hemp bedding?

- A. Hemp bedding is more comfortable and softer, so horses are more likely to lay down, achieving full sleep cycles. The high thermal rating, keeping horses warmer while they sleep, reducing colds. Hemp is non-clumping and does not cause discomfort and infections in hooves.

Q: Is hemp bedding easy to maintain?

- A. Hemp bed is quick and easy to maintain, staying drier and lasting longer than conventional materials. It should be disturbed as little as possible, with the droppings being removed regularly each day, and the wet material dug out as required.

For a "clean" horse that has tidy potty habits and is not a "walker", it takes only a few minutes to clean the stall. It takes a quarter of the regular time to muck. For "dirty" horses or incessant "walkers" it is more of a challenge, but still better than anything else.

The particle size easily falls through pitchfork tines, ensuring very little bedding is removed during removal of manure. Maintain the thickness of the bedding by replenishing with fresh bedding. The average amount for replenishing is approximately one bale per month. There is no need to remove the hemp bedding once it is put down.

The volume of waste is minimal, in comparison to shavings, and hemp decomposes very quickly into quality garden compost in just a few weeks.

The most important thing about hemp bedding is to disturb the bed as little as possible, removing droppings regularly and wet patches occasionally. Topping up as required. The horse stalls does not have to be clean out entirely unlike other bedding. Saving in the cost for setting up again and labor.

Q: How popular is hemp mulch for gardening and compost?

- A. Growing in popularity, Hemp is fabulous mulch, absorbing 5 times its weight in moisture, and retaining it longer than other mulching materials. Favourable to microorganisms and biota such as earthworms. Surface of mulch remains generally dry so is less receptive to weed growth or evaporative water loss and frost damage. Superior insulating properties protecting the soil in hot summer or cold winter periods. Once wetted, fibres will progressively bind due to lignin and pectin content. This means the product is less prone to wind-blowing once laid. Discourages snails and slugs due to its "terrain". Fully degradable and adds humus to soils. pH neutral.

Q: Will I get hemp plant growing in my garden when I use hemp as mulch?

- A. Hemp crop grown for fiber are harvested before they go into seeds. There will be no hemp seeds in any of our hemp animal bedding.

Q: How is Hemp Sustainable?

- A. Hemp is one of the earth's primary renewable resources, as trees can take between 16 to 25 years to grow while hemp can be cultivated in as little as 130 to 150 days, and can yield 4 times more over a 20 year period. Industrial Hemp in crop rotation contributes to an economical, sustainable farming sector. Both consumers and growers benefit from its ecological and economical properties. As industrial Hemp grows it extracts carbon out of the air. This process is known as carbon sequestering. Carbon sequestering enhances the quality of the air we breathe.