

SHOW HINTS

While everyone has his or her own bag of tricks to make their horses stand out. Here's a list of tips to help you shine on show day:

- **Sard wonder soap is good for washing white markings.**
- **Chalk, baby powder or corn starch are good sock whiteners.**
- **Dryer sheets wiped through the hair will help eliminate static electricity in the mane and tail.**
- **Rub a dab of baby oil along the bridle path to get rid of that chalky, just-clipped look and make it shiny.**
- **To polish the feet, use the wax-based, cake shoe polishes to add a deep lustre to the foot while protecting it from the drying effects of hoof lacquer, which can be applied over the shoe polish.**
- **Use thinning shears to shorten the mane without having the chopped look of scissor cuts.**
- **Clippers can give you the effect of a pulled tail, without having to pull out hairs. Run the clippers carefully along the outside of the dock and down about 4 to 6 inches, just up to the point where the hair begins to crest over. Thin the hairs along the top of the tail and blend longer hairs to gradually blend into the shorter ones.**
- **Use setting gel to help stray or short wisps stay put.**
- **Wash your horse a couple of days before the show so the oils of the coat have time to work to the surface for a natural shine. Keep a light sheet on to keep the coat clean until show day.**
- **A dampened towel over the neck helps the hairs lie down smoothly.**
- **Keep a wrap on your horse's tail to keep it clean.**
- **Purchase inexpensive knit gloves (available at most drug or hardware stores) and apply the product directly to them. When you are finished, they can be washed.**
- **Use a hot oil treatment in addition to equine conditioner to soften the hairs of coarse tails and make them flow.**
- **If you clip the inside of your horse's ears, place cotton wool inside to deaden the buzz of the clippers and prevent hairs from entering the ear canal. Make sure you remove it all when finished!**