

Lying surface



A lying surface must feature a sufficiently cushioned and dry surface that offers proper traction to prevent slipping and injury to the hooves.

This can be achieved by providing large quantities of dry bedding.

Pen with bedding

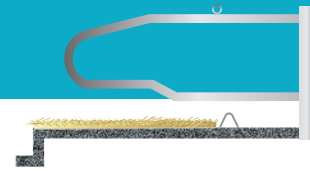
For Deep Bedded Packs:

- ✓ Add a daily layer of fresh bedding (approximate rate of 10-12 kg per cow per day)
- ✓ Remove and replace all bedding every 3 to 6 weeks

For Compost-bedded Packs:

- ✓ Use fine, dry, wood-based materials for composting
- ✓ Maintain temperature between 45-55°C, measured at a depth of 6 to 12 inches
- ✓ Keep moisture levels within 40-60% range
- ✓ Aerate (stir) bedding twice daily at a depth of 8 to 12 inches
- ✓ Replace all bedding material 1-2 times per year

Stalls with mattresses



Must:

- ✓ Be soft enough, in combination with bedding, to absorb the impact when cows lie down
- ✓ Allow hooves to sink in to provide a non-slip surface when rising
- ✓ Be made of a resistant and washable material

Deep-bedded stalls

Must:

- ✓ Be filled with bedding at all times
- ✓ Have at least 8 inches of bedding
- ✓ Be levelled on the surface regularly

Deep bedded stalls offer several key advantages:

- ✓ Optimal cushioning of the lying surface
- ✓ Reduced abrasion
- ✓ Promote longer resting periods
- ✓ Decreased occurrence of lameness
- ✓ Improved traction during rising and lying movements

Mistakes to avoid



- ⊗ Avoid using no bedding at all
- ⊗ Avoid adding a base material in stalls with inadequate dimensions
- ⊗ Avoid using a type of bedding that is inappropriate for the lying surface
- ⊗ Avoid not filling deep-bedded stalls with bedding

The various lying surfaces influence animal comfort, but also the workload on-farm.



The workload depends on the handling and maintenance required for the type of bedding used. Your choice should take this into consideration, but there should be no negative impact on the comfort and cleanliness of the lying surface. The lying surface selected must be compatible with your manure handling and management processes.