



SEAT SOFTENER

The issue: Your saddle's hard seat puts pressure on your seat bones and muscles, making you sore and achy after a ride.

The comfort product: Weaver Leather® Gel Seat Pad.

How it helps: Designed to fit most Western saddles with 15- to 17-inch seats, the gel seat pad provides added shock absorption and distributes weight over a broader area, alleviating pressure points. The black mesh cover is hand-washable, dries quickly, and provides air flow to keep you comfortable. Straps attach over the saddle horn and cantle to hold the pad in place.

Price: \$44.40

More info: valleyvet.biz; 800-419-9524



LIGHT AND DRY

The issue: You need outerwear that's light enough to carry in a saddle bag but *truly* protective during a down-pour or a windstorm.

The comfort product: North Face® Meru Paclite® Jacket.

How it helps: Anyone who spends long hours outdoors can appreciate products that simply work. Long a popular choice among mountaineers, skiers, and other outdoor adventurers, the North Face brand is increasingly seen at horse shows, in riding stables, and around farms and ranches. Weighing in at less than 12 ounces, the Paclite is made of sturdy ripstop nylon adhered to a Gore-Tex® membrane. It's highly breathable yet impervious to even the heaviest downpour. Chest pockets are comfortable alternatives to thigh pockets. They keep personal items handy without allowing them to bang against your legs. Available in men's and women's styles and sizes.

Price: \$229.

More info: thenorthface.com; 888-863-1968



BACK SUPPORT

The issue: You're among the four out of five adults who experience back pain. (According to the American Chiropractic Association, it's the fifth most common reason for doctor visits in the U.S.)

The comfort product: Professional's Choice® Comfort-Fit® Low Back Support.

How it helps: This product not only helps support the back muscles and spine, its long-lasting neoprene fabric also provides insulation and warmth to keep muscles relaxed, reducing the chance of spasms and soreness. Hook-and-loop fasteners make adjustment easy, and a slim profile allows you to wear the support under clothing. Sizes XS to XXL.

Price: \$64.95 to \$84.95

More info: www.profchoice.com; 800-331-9421



SOOTHING JEANS

The issue: You find that traditional jeans, with their bulky seams, chafe your inner thighs and knees and put pressure on sensitive body parts.

The comfort product: Smooth Stride Full-Seat "Seamless" Riding Jeans.

How they help: Smooth Stride's seamless riding jeans for women do away with the inside leg seam and don't have a bulky bump in the crotch. A machine-washable synthetic "suede" seat extends to the bottom hem and helps provide extra adhesion in the saddle. Women's waist sizes 28-40; inseam 32 inches (with 36-inch length to come soon).

Price: \$119

More info: smoothstride.com; 208-863-2155



Find convenient links to each item by clicking "Comfort Products: Quick Links," this month at HorseandRider.com.