



Calorex helps keep top race horses on track

A Calorex dehumidification unit is ensuring the turnout rugs of a 70-plus string of horses at the Maunby House Stables, in North Yorkshire, are kept in tip-top condition

Top flat-racing trainer, David Barron, invested in a new purpose-built drying room where rain-soaked rugs can be dried with the help of a Porta-Dry 1500 unit that not only heats space, it removes harmful moisture from the atmosphere at the same time.

Drying by traditional heating involves continuously warming a stream of outside air on a constant 'in and out' cycle equivalent to eight times the volume of the room every hour.

Dehumidification is much more sophisticated because it re-circulates the same air and physically removes moisture from it. This alleviates the need to continuously reheat incoming air. Not only that, a dehumidifier will cleverly convert energy taken out of the room as moisture (latent energy), to create 'sensible energy' that can be used to heat the room, accelerating the drying process.

Cleverly, for every unit of energy that a Calorex dehumidifier consumes, it converts 2.5 times this amount to useable heat. Compared to traditional heat and ventilation energy, cost savings of 500% are not unusual.

The great British weather presents a perennial problem for horse owners across the country – and not just in the winter.

"It used to be a horrendous problem until we got the drying room and the dehumidifier which is a god send when it comes to the constant turn-around of the horses," explains assistant trainer, Nicola Barron, David's daughter.

"It used to be a horrendous problem until we got the drying room and the dehumidifier which is a god send when it comes to the constant turn-around of the horses."

"Keeping the rugs free of damp and condensation not only gives them a longer lifespan but also protects the horses from potentially damaging conditions like ringworm and other skin problems that could keep them from racing. Nicola adds: "I think dehumidification must be the best kept secret in the horse racing world."

The equipment was installed by Dovebrace of, Chester, a company that specialises in providing a complete turnkey service.

"Originally the Yard had considered using traditional heating methods but I advised

them it made much sounder financial and environmental sense to invest in not just heating but dehumidification units that soon more than cover the cost of their initial outlay," explains Dovebrace's David Jones.

"When it comes to dehumidification, Calorex was the obvious point of call, as they are the industry leaders," he added.

"The Calorex team was able to advise on the right type of dehumidification unit taking into the size and the function of the drying room."