

TYPES OF ENGLISH SADDLES

The following are representatives of the most commonly available English saddles. You should work with a professional to determine the saddle that is best for you based on the discipline you ride, the conformation of your horse, and your budget.



All Purpose: The all purpose saddle is designed to accommodate a rider who may jump, do some dressage, and trail ride. These saddles are often good for beginning riders as they typically have a deep seat and can be used in novice competitions for a variety of English disciplines. Most all purpose saddles have knee rolls.



Dressage: The dressage saddle is most suited to riding on the flat. Dressage saddles position the rider over the horse's center of gravity. Typically dressage saddles have straight flaps and a very deep seat (high cantle and pommel). Most dressage saddles have knee rolls and many have leg blocks designed to help the rider maintain leg position.



Close Contact: The close contact saddle is designed for jumping and used by hunt seat riders and competitive show jumpers. Close contact saddles position the rider slightly ahead of the horse's center of gravity. The close contact saddle is generally identified by its shallow seat, square cantle, and forward flap.



Cut Back Flat Seat: The cut back flat seat saddle is most commonly used for Saddle Seat Riding. It positions the rider slightly behind the horse's center of gravity which is an appropriate position when riding gaited horses. The cut back flat seat saddle is easily identified by its flat seat, cut back pommel, and straight flaps. Most cut back flat seat saddles are currently made without knee rolls.