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### Sparkling White Mane, Tail and Feather Secrets

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Ever wish your AMAZING drum horse had been born with an all black tail? It can be very exasperating to prepare your horse for a show or pictures and find it takes hour upon hour of preparation and her tail is still stained? There is a solution: A little known, beauty shop solution for stained, damaged hair.

Horse hair is very coarse and porous. Compared to human hair, which has many different types, its stronger and more resilient. Being porous, though, it is naturally extremely dry. All horses mane and tail hair is this way and always will be. Dry hair (no matter the species) will get whatever form of moisture it can find. Much like a sponge, it will soak up wetness wherever it comes from. Shavings that cover the stall floor have tree sap still in them. When horses roll or lay down in it, their tail will soak up the sap leaving it a yellow color. Dirt, when they are out to pasture, is easier to bleach out. For the Drum mares though, it will be a little bit more difficult, but not impossible! When your mare urinates or defecates the moisture from the urine and feces attaches itself to the hair strand. It penetrates the outer layer of each hair shaft and deposits protein into the strand leaving it stained yellow to a deep brown.

The following ingredients can be found at a beauty supply such as Sally's Beauty Supply.



Powder Bleach (any brand)  
40/50 crème developer (The higher the volume the quicker the lift, I would strongly suggest using 40 your first time as it can lift VERY quickly)  
1 gallon bargain shampoo (any brand. This is enough for three to four treatments. We used cherry. That is why it is pink)  
1 gallon bucket  
Kitchen gloves  
Vet wrap  
Goggles (optional) DO NOT FORGET TO WEAR YOUR BARN CLOTHES!

**MIX:** for every 1 cup of bleach powder, use 1 cup of developer. There must be equal parts. On the average full grown Drum with a mostly white tail, I use about 4 cups powder bleach to 4 cups crème developer. Section off the pieces of tail that are colored. Braid it and wrap it in vet wrap to keep from accidentally being bleached. Mix equal parts of bleach and developer into a gallon bucket. Mix in 1/3 of the gallon of the bargain brand shampoo. Nothing to expensive shampoo-wise on the tail, their hair can take anything so bargain shampoo is best! The mixture should be the consistency of sour cream. If it is a little runny it's ok! Place the ends of the hair into the bucket, saturating all of the stained strands. Once all hair is saturated, continue to work through constantly. Make sure you're wearing your barn clothes and gloves! This process can take up to 45 minutes depending on the amount of stain on the tail.



Left side is untreated, right side treated.

When the hair has reached a pale yellow color, its time to rinse! It will not be perfectly white the very first time, and that's ok! This can take up to 3 times to get it baby fresh looking again. The first try usually gets all of the dirt, urine/feces stains broken down and washed out. Their hair is very resilient and in 4 to 5 days you can do this process all over again (I suggest a lower volume such as 30 the next few times afterwards.) In the picture to the left it is easy to see the side that was processed and the side that was placed in vet wrap for comparison. I have done this to two of our mares personally and it works every time. This process can be used on their feather with 20 volume developer. (The lower the volume the less harsh and slower the process) Equal parts of developer and powder bleach here as well as the shampoo. Its important to keep an eye on the feather as you work it in. The feather, while the same hair as the mane and tail, goes through more work during the day. Drums walk through grass, weeds, feces and mud so the feather can break a little

easier than the tail. Don't let this keep you from whitening your Drums feather though! If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact me at: [greenrebma@gmail.com](mailto:greenrebma@gmail.com) **NOTE\*** This formula works on all hair colors and will bleach anything. So be careful if you have a fidgety Drum!