

## Tips for working with a green horse

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- Never work by yourself. Even if you're just doing ground work or grooming, your horse can become easily startled if he's still green.
- Make sure your environment is safe. That means no protruding nails or boards in any area you plan to take your horse. If you're working a large horse in a round pen, make sure the walls are stable and tall enough to ensure the horse is not likely to jump out.
- Always wear a helmet, even when you are doing ground work.
- Walk or lunge your horse under tack to let him get used to feeling the equipment on his back and face.
- Never wrap a lunge line or lead rope around your hand or fingers, even if your horse is quiet. One good jerk from your spooky steed and you'll be caught. Loop it into large coils and grasp the line around the center.
- Be patient. Remember horses are prey animals and their instinct is often to flee from frightening or unfamiliar situations. Accepting a rider can be counterintuitive and scary for your horse. If he becomes overwhelmed during training, take a break or start again the next day.

