

# Founder from Black Walnut Shavings

Founder (laminitis) can be induced by black walnut shavings. Researchers have long suspected the poison from black walnut leaches up through the horse's hooves and the sensitive laminae into the bloodstream and becomes systemic. Stalled horses may ingest some of it from the floor from nibbling their hay.

As little as 5% black walnut shavings mixed with 95% pine shavings in a 12 x 12 stall can be fatal to a horse within 12 hours.

Clinical signs (as soon as 8 hours after exposure) are increased heart rate, increased respiratory rate, depression, high body temperature, acute laminitis (rotation of the coffin bone) and sometimes colic.

**BOTTOM LINE: Know the integrity of your sawmill and its operator**