

General guidelines.

The size of the saddle will be determined by rider fit, not horse size.

As a general rule, if it is appropriate for the rider to sit on the horse, their saddle size will also be appropriate.

Short backed and small horses can be comfortably ridden in larger saddle sizes because the flexible seat and cantle will move with the back action, avoiding pressure and bridging at the rear; this would not be possible in a treed saddle, which should be positioned in front of the last rib.



*The same adult rider rides both Sean the pony and Mac the cob in the same Solution saddle.*

Height and weight of the rider are the factors that have most influence on the saddle size required.

There are no hard and fast rules as much of the decision will be from the rider's personal preference – some prefer to be seated snugly, others prefer more room to move.

It is advisable to try more than one size where there is any doubt.

Hip to knee length: if longer than average, may require a longer seat to give the rider more room from the cantle to the front of the kneeflap. This is particularly important where a short stirrup length is adopted e.g. in the jumping models. Longer legs can be accommodated by slimmer or contoured kneeblocks, while a smaller rider may prefer the support of larger blocks.

It is possible to make a larger saddle seat size feel more snug for smaller riders by using front and rear shims. This brings the cantle upwards and forwards to meet the rider's seat and drops the middle of the seat, making it feel deeper.