

NightLatch SafetyStrap OhSh*tHandle



A Nightlatch, a Safety Strap, an Oh Sh*t Handle - so what IS it?

A strap for your saddle, wrapped around the pommel, to the side of the horn - to be used as a handle providing you an extra level of safety.

When you grip the loop of the Nightlatch it will help you to pull yourself down and hunker lower in the saddle. It helps you to lock your elbow and leg down. You will be much less likely to come off because the forces applied lock you down and back. Grabbing the horn often pulls your upper body forward, increasing the possibility of becoming unbalanced. Also, your hand can slip off the horn since there is little grip on it. You can see it resembles the bucking strap the Bull Riders use, same concept.

You can easily make one from an old belt or English stirrup leather. Be sure it's attached close to the saddle - too much slack and you'll lose the benefit of the "lock", but too tight and you can't get your hand under it quickly. Experiment with the loop to find a size that is right for you. I'd recommend connecting it with a few Chicago Screws or rivets. The buckle, if not placed correctly can irritate the horse's withers or catch your hand. You want a smooth connection.

It even makes a good handle to help you carry your saddle.

Different varieties of Nightlatches, on different saddles, made from different materials. And a few photos of how they are used (here's hoping we never need to ride a bucking bronco!)

