

LADDER SAFETY

Ladders

Ladders are one of the most common and useful tools found in any operation. This is especially true in the construction industry. With few exceptions all trades have a need for ladders at one time or another to complete their portion of the job. Falls are the most common accident from ladder use, with collapse of the ladder being a close second. The best way to reduce these types of accidents is to know how to inspect and use this important tool.

Basic Guidelines for Ladder Inspections:

If any of the following items are found, tag the ladder as “Out of Service”:

- Loose, broken, bent or missing rungs, cleats, or bracing.
- Loose or missing bolts, screws or nails.
- Wood splinters.
- Corrosion of metal ladders or metal parts.
- Missing, cracked or damaged side rails or footpads.

Basic Guidelines for Ladder Use:

First and foremost, choose the right type and size ladder for the job.

- Do not set up in doorways or walkways where others can run into them.
- Do not run hoses, cords or ropes on ladders that may create a tripping hazard.
- Do not increase length by putting on boxes, barrels, buckets, or other unstable bases.
- Do have solid footing against a solid surface.
- always Tie off straight ladders.
- Be sure the top of the ladder extends at least 36” beyond the top-supporting surface.
- Never splice or tie two ladders together.
- Do not lean out to the side when on a ladder.
- Never stand above the indicated topmost safe step on a stepladder.
- Never have more than one person on any ladder.
- Check footwear to be sure they are free of slippery substances (mud, oil, grease, etc.).
- Never use metal ladders when electrical hazards are present.