

# GRAVITY

## SECTION 4 CHAPTER 24

### LADDER SAFETY

#### Purpose

This chapter establishes the requirements for...

- Use
- Maintenance
- Inspection
- Training

...of ladders found on company property or vehicles

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#### Scope

These regulations apply to all company employees, temporary employees, and contractors

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## Types

There are different types of ladders found throughout the company. These devices are designed to help employees safely reach items or work on items beyond their capabilities. Such device types include...

- wooden ladders
- fiberglass ladders
- portable ladders
- extension ladders

These can be found located...

- on pick-ups
- on welding trucks
- on mechanics trucks
- in shop facilities

## Portable and Extension Ladders

- When portable straight and extension ladders are used on hard surfaces, they must be equipped with nonskid footing or securely fastened to prevent slipping.
- The top of the ladder should be secured, or the ladder should be held by another person.
- Side rails must extend 3 feet above the landing surface.
- The base of the ladder should be placed away from the wall by a distance of one-fourth of the working length of the ladder. The working length is the length of the ladder from the bottom to the point where it contacts the wall.
- Unsecured portable ladders should not be left standing unattended.
- Do not extend extension ladders beyond the manufacturer's recommendation.

## Step Ladders

When using a step ladder, you should not:

- stand on the top two steps (or as recommended by the manufacturer)
- stand on the spreader of the stepladder
- use a stepladder as a straight ladder

## Wooden /Fiberglass Ladders

Wooden and fiberglass ladders must not be painted.

Wooden ladders should be:

- coated with clear varnish or shellac
  - or treated with boiled linseed oil
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**Inspection by competent person** Employees shall ensure that the ladder being used for the job task meets the specifications set forth in OSHA 1926.1053 (a)(1-27)

Prior to every use and during operations, the device should be visually inspected for...

- closely inspected when purchased or installed
- rungs must be uniformly spaced no more than 12 inches apart
- inspect the condition of the ladder before each use
- remove any oil, grease or slippery material from the ladder and from your shoes

Ladders must be maintained in good condition. Defective ladders must be taken out of service, tagged, and repaired or replaced.

**Load and Person Limits**

The combined weight of the person and load should not exceed the load limit for the ladder.

There must not be more than one person on a ladder at the same time. If a job requires more than one person, a scaffold or a second ladder should be considered.

**Climbing Guidelines**

Ladder rungs, cleats, and steps shall be parallel, level and uniformly spaced when the ladder is in position for use.

When ascending or descending a ladder, climbers should face the ladder and maintain a firm grip.

Do not carry tools or other objects in your hands.

Use a tool belt or pouch for holding small tools.

Use a hand line to raise or lower heavy or bulky objects.

When a climbing device is required, it must be used by the climber.

**Precautions**

When using ladders, always:

- secure ladder
  - ensure ladder placement
  - check for windy conditions
  - don't use the device without proper training
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## Use

Ladders must not be used:

- As a scaffold member
- For any purpose for which they are not intended

Ensure the following:

- All permanent ladders must be securely fastened at both top and bottom. Long ladders should also be secured at midpoint.
  - Ladders must not be placed in front of doors that open toward the ladder unless the door is locked or guarded.
  - The use of ladders in windy conditions may require additional precautions, such as delaying the job, extra tag lines to secure the ladder, or another person to assist.
  - When raising or lowering a ladder, make sure it does not come in contact with an energized electrical source.
  - Unauthorized personnel shall not be permitted to ride on equipment unless it is equipped to accommodate riders safely.
  - When performing electrical work that requires the use of a ladder, use a wooden or approved fiberglass ladder.
  - Metal ladders must not be used for electrical work.
  - Never extend the ladder further than an arm's length to reach work.
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