

Ladder Maintenance and Safety



Ladders are vital tools in many workplaces, allowing us to access high areas safely. However, inadequate maintenance can compromise their safety and increase the risk of injury. To prevent accidents, it's important to prioritize ladder safety through regular maintenance and care.

Proper Ladder Storage

- Store ladders horizontally on racks when not in use; do not hang them by the rungs or stiles.
- Avoid placing materials on ladders.
- Keep wooden ladders away from heat or damp environments.
- Store fiberglass ladders in shaded areas, away from direct sunlight or UV light.

Proper Handling of Ladders

- Before and after each use, ensure ladders are clean and free of oil, mud, grease, or any substances that could make rungs slippery.
- Avoid dropping ladders; impact can damage them, causing loose steps or warped stiles. If dropped, inspect thoroughly before use.
- Secure ladders during transport, avoiding areas where they could bump into objects and become damaged.

Ladder Inspections

Before using a ladder, conduct the following inspections for safety:

Visual Inspection:

Check for Cracks and Dents

Look for any damage on the rungs, rails, and feet.

Inspect for Corrosion

For metal ladders, check for rust or corrosion that could weaken the structure.

Look for Loose or Missing Parts

Ensure all bolts, screws, and rivets are intact and secure.

Check for Missing Labels

Ensure all safety labels and instructions are present and legible; missing labels can lead to improper usage.

Functional Inspection:

Test Stability

Make sure the ladder stands firmly on the ground and does not wobble.

Check the Locks and Hinges

Ensure all locks and hinges are functioning correctly and securely.

Assess the Feet and Shoes

Ensure the feet and shoes are intact and are in good condition to provide adequate grip.

Weight Capacity Check

Verify the ladder's rated load capacity is sufficient for the intended use, including the user and any tools or material.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can maintain ladder integrity and promote a safer working environment. Regular care and vigilance are key to preventing accidents and ensuring safe usage.