



eSafetyLine

Ladder Selection

Whenever choosing a tool for any task in the workplace, one of the first points of safety is to choose the correct tool for the job. This also applies to ladders used on the job; always choose the correct ladder for the job or task to be performed. There are many types of ladders, ranging from simple wooden job-built ladders to specialty ladders used for specific jobs. Ladders may be made of wood, aluminum, or fiberglass. There are three main types of ladders found in the workplace; extension ladders, step ladders, and multi-purpose ladders.

When choosing a ladder for your job, keep the following in mind:

- When working indoors, stepladders or multi-purpose ladders are usually recommended.
- For outdoor work, taller stepladders, multi-purpose, or extension ladders are usually more appropriate.
- NEVER use aluminum ladders when working around electricity. Use a ladder made out of non-conductive material for electrical work.
- Make sure that the ladder is the proper length to do the job safely.
- Use a ladder that is designed for how you intend to use it. For example, do not use step ladders in a folded and leaned position in place of a straight ladder.
- A ladder must be capable of supporting your weight and the weight of any materials you will be using.

Type	Weight Rating	Duty Rating
1-AA	375 pounds	Super Heavy Duty
1-A	300 pounds	Extra Heavy Duty
1	250 pounds	Heavy Duty Industrial
2	225 pounds	Medium Duty Commercial
3	200 pounds	Light Duty Household

This chart indicates how ladders are rated and the safe weight limit for each category. If the wrong rated ladder is used, the results could be catastrophic.

Discussion Questions

When working around electricity, what material should a ladder never be built of?

When choosing a ladder according to weight rating, what weight should be considered; the weight of the person using it or the weight of materials to be carried on it?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/_____

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

___/___/___
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

___/___/___
Date