



eSafetyLine

Ladder Inspection

All ladders, like any other tool or piece of equipment used on the job, must be inspected for defects and/or damage periodically by a competent person, and after any occurrence that could affect their safe use.

Those that use ladders must inspect ladders before each use, and defective and/or damaged ladders must be immediately tagged with a "Do Not Use" tag or tag containing similar language. Defective and/or damaged ladders must not be used and must be removed from service until repaired.

Look for warning signs. When inspecting ladders, all ladder components are to be checked for signs of wear, corrosion and structural failure before each use. These inspections should include:

- Rungs - Check for broken, split, cracked, corroded or missing rungs.
- Side Rails - Check for broken, split, cracked, corroded or missing side rails.
- Cracks - Check carefully for cracks; they are hard to see. Cracks weaken ladders.
- Excessive Bends - Check for rungs or side rails with excessive bends. Bent areas are greatly weakened and may fail during use.
- Hardware - Check for ladders with loose, corroded, or weakened fasteners and hardware.
- Feet - Check ladders for missing or damaged feet. Ladder feet may have both non-skid pads for use on hard surfaces (concrete), and metal feet for soft surfaces (dirt).

- Coatings or Paint - Check for paint or other coating hiding defects. Wood ladders should never be painted or coated with any opaque coatings. When other types of ladders are painted it is very hard for the user to observe defects/damage such as cracks or dents and painted areas must be inspected carefully for hidden damage.
- Oil, grease, and other slipping hazards - Inspect ladders for oil, grease, moisture or other slippery materials before use and clean as necessary.
- Capacity - Check the capacity label and make sure the ladder has sufficient capacity to hold you and everything you are wearing/carrying.

The short time that it takes to inspect a ladder can go a long way to keeping employees and property safe from harm. Ladder inspection is one of those safety rules that cost very little, but give big returns.

Discussion Questions

How often should ladder inspections be conducted?

Why are wooden ladders not allowed to be covered in an opaque coating?

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