



TOOLBOX TALK: LADDER SAFETY

Is Your Ladder Safe?

Ladders are involved in 81 percent of fall injuries among construction workers and 20 percent of fall injuries among the general workforce.

Inspection of an extension ladder is key to avoid serious or even deadly injuries. OSHA Standard 1926.1053(b)(15) requires inspections on a periodic basis, but it is still every worker's responsibility to be sure the ladder they are about to use is in safe working order.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING A LADDER INSPECTION:

- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper inspection and use for each specific ladder.
- Always visually inspect ladder feet to ensure the foot pads and feet assembly are present and in safe condition. Damaged or missing foot pads can cause you to slip or lose balance.
- Inspect the rungs, rails, lock (dawgs), rope and pulley assembly of an extension ladder and ensure that all parts work properly.
- Never attempt to repair a ladder! Do not use wire, screws, bolts, duct tape or electrical tape as a way to fix any ladder.
- Tag it and remove it from service.
- Make sure that labels are legible and haven't been painted over or damaged.
- Keep rungs and steps clean from mud, grease and dirt to avoid slipping or falling.
- Make sure your shoes are free of any substance which could cause you to slip or fall.
- Ensure you are using the correct type of ladder with the proper load capacity and height for the job.

We Are Here

Do you have a question about safety and health? Contact us and we can assist you in making your workplace safer.

safeatwork.mo.gov

