

Ladder & Stepladder Safety

Set-up for leaning ladders

- Do a daily pre-use check (include ladder feet)
- Secure it
- Ground should be firm and level
- Maximum safe ground side slope 16o (level the rungs with a suitable device)
- Maximum safe ground back slope 6o
- Have a strong upper resting point (not plastic guttering)
- Floors should be clean, not slippery

Leaning ladders in-use

- Short duration work (maximum 30 minutes)
- Light work (up to 10 kg)
- Ladder angle 75o - 1 in 4 rule (1 unit out for every 4 units up)
- Always grip the ladder when climbing
- Do not overreach - make sure your belt buckle (navel) stays within the stiles and keep both feet on the same rung or step throughout the task
- Do not work off the top three rungs - this provides a handhold

Set-up for stepladders

- Daily pre-use check (feet included)
- Ensure there is space to fully open
- Use any locking devices
- Ground should be firm and level
- Floors should be clean, not slippery

Stepladders in-use

- Short duration work (maximum 30 minutes)
- Light work (up to 10 kg)
- Do not work off the top two steps (top three steps for swing-back/double-sided stepladders) unless you have a safe handhold on the steps
- Avoid side-on working
- Do not overreach - make sure your belt buckle (navel) stays within the stiles and keep both feet on the same rung or step throughout the task

Further information

Safe use of ladders and stepladders: An employers' guide INDG402 HSE Books 2005 ISBN 0 7176 6105 9

More information can be found at:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/index.htm>

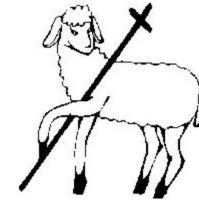
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