

SAFETY TALK

Types of Ladders

A valuable way for you to choose the appropriate ladder for the job is for you to understand what the different types of ladders are. Here are some common ladders:

Stepladders vary in size and range anywhere from 3 feet to 20 feet in length. If it is shorter than 3 feet, it is considered a step stool. Whenever you plan for a job, you should factor in the maximum work height. You can determine this by adding your height and reach to the highest standing level of the stepladder.

Single ladders are non-self-supporting portable ladders that are not adjustable in length. They consist of only one section and can be up to 24 feet long. Never have more than one person on a single ladder at a given time. You might consider using a single ladder for activities such as roofing.

Articulated Ladders are portable ladders that have one or more pairs of locking hinges allowing you to set the ladder up in several configurations, such as a single or extension ladder, stepladder, trestle ladder, scaffold or work table.

Combination Ladders are portable ladders capable of being used as stepladders, or single or extension ladders. You may also find combination ladders that can be used as a trestle ladder or as a stairwell ladder. When using this type of ladder you can use spreaders or a locking device to securely hold the front and rear sections in the open position.

Extension Ladders are non-self-supporting portable ladders that are adjustable in length. You will find that they are comprised of two or more sections that travel in guides or brackets to allow length adjustment. Never have more than one person on an extension ladder at a given time.

Extension Trestle Ladders are self-supporting portable ladders that can be adjusted. They are made from a trestle ladder base and a vertically adjustable extension section that can lock the ladders together. Never have more than one person on an extension trestle ladder at a given time.

Fixed Ladders are non-self-supporting ladders that are not adjustable and permanently attached to a structure. They range from 60 degrees to 90 degrees in pitch from the horizontal. Never use a fixed ladder with a pitch greater than 90 degrees. That is not permitted.

Job-made Ladders are custom-made to fit specific job situations. They are temporary in nature and serve only until a particular phase of work is completed or until permanent stairways or fixed ladders are ready for use.

Mobile Ladder Stands are movable, fixed height, self-supporting ladders consisting of wide flat treads in the form of steps which give access to a top step. You may have to assemble and/or install handrails prior to using a mobile ladder stand.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are stepladders shorter than 3 feet called?

What are job-made ladders?





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