



SAFETY SCHOOL

Provided for UAC members by the Georgia Urban Ag Council & Snellings Walters Insurance Agency

Using ladders safely

Objective:

To be able to demonstrate the safe use ladders of that are used primarily for construction and/or maintenance jobs.

Trainer's Note:

Read through the entire module prior to beginning the training session. Have ladders available to demonstrate the information about ladder safety.

Basic steps that should be taken before climbing a ladder:

- Consider the type of work to be done before choosing a ladder.
- Be certain the ladder is able to carry the amount of weight that will be applied.
- Make sure the ladder is placed on a firm level surface.
- Check the condition of the ladder.

Inspection checklist for potential hazards		
Metal ladders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharp edges• Dents• Bent steps• Bent rungs or rails• No slip-resistant rubber or plastic feet	Wood ladders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Splits• Cracks• Chips• Loose rungs or steps	Fiberglass ladders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loose components• Missing components• Cracks• Chips

Stepladders

- Be certain the spreader is locked before climbing on the ladder.
- Never stand on the top or top step of a stepladder.

Extension and straight ladders

- Raise the extension ladder to the desired height and lock both sides.
- Never stand on the top three rungs of a straight or extension ladder.
- Don't lean a ladder against a movable object.

- Always face the ladder and hold onto the side rails with both hands, when going up or down the ladder.

Ladder weight classes

Industrial

- Heavy-duty with a load capacity of not more than 250 lbs .

Commercial

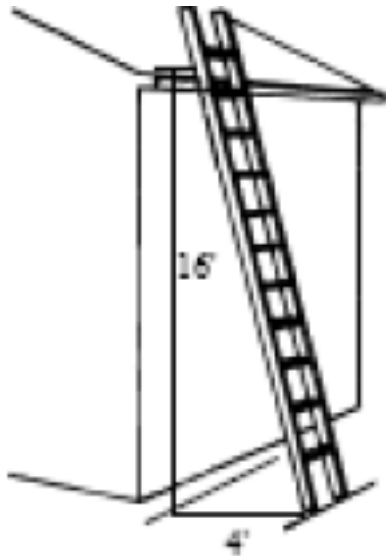
- Medium-duty with a load capacity of not more than 225 lbs. (Suited for painting)

Household

- Light-duty with a load capacity of 200 lbs.

Proper ladder placement

The ladder should be placed so that its base is one foot away from what the ladder leans against for every four feet in height to the point where the ladder rests. This is referred to as the four-to-one rule. For example, if a 16-foot ladder leans against a wall, its base should be placed four feet from the wall.



Remember

- Never use a ladder in a strong wind.
- Never use a ladder in front of a door unless it is locked, blocked or guarded.
- Inspect ladders for potential dangers before using.
- Keep your body centered between the rails of the ladder.
- Never carry tools or materials in your hand when going up or down a ladder.
- Only one person should be on a ladder at a time.
- If one must work near power lines, always use a wooden or fiberglass ladder. NEVER work with a metal ladder around power lines.

Review

- Chose the right ladder for the intended job.
- Know the potential hazards when using a ladder.
- Know the proper placement of ladders.

Quiz

1. Ladders should be inspected prior to every use. True or False.
2. Never stand on the top two rungs of any ladder. True or False.
3. It is okay to walk down with your back facing the ladder. True or False.
4. The ladder must always be on stable ground prior to climbing. True or False.
5. Never over stretch to reach anything while working from a ladder. True or False.

Answer key

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True