

Scaffold Safety



Scaffolds can tip over, collapse or employees can fall through improper planking. Employees on the job site must recognize hazards while setting up, using and taking down scaffolds. Review the following scaffold safety tips with your employees.

Toolbox Tips

- Use guardrails or personal fall arrest systems when scaffold work platforms exceed 10 feet in height.
- Working platforms and decks must be fully planked with no more than a 14 inch gap from the building or wall.
- Scaffold planks are to be overlapped on a support at least six inches but not more than 12 inches.
- Do not use planking with knots, holes, cracks or rot.
- Inspect scaffolds and scaffold parts daily before and after each work shift.
- Check footings to see if they are level, sound, rigid, and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold.
- Use two by four material as a guardrail in addition to scaffold X-frames.
- Make sure that tools and materials are at least 10 feet away from energized power lines.
- Contact your local electric company for guidance when working in close proximity to power lines.
- Check metal components for bends, cracks, holes, rust, welding splatter, pits, broken welds and non-compatible parts.
- Tie the scaffold back to the building at every 20 feet of vertical height.
- Do not use scaffold end frames and legs without base plates.
- Scaffold base plates need to be nailed to mud sills on a firm foundation to prevent shifting.
- Never set up end frames on concrete blocks or stacks of lumber as they are unstable.
- Provide a good path for drainage so water does not damage the scaffold footing.



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