

Top 5 Ladder Usage Pet Peeves (Review from October Newsletter)

1. Using Ladders that are Unfit for Duty.

"On too many job sites, I see ladders in use that are excessively faded, cracked, bent, broken, missing parts, labels etc. Ladders should be inspected by a Qualified Person for visible defects frequently and after any occurrence which could affect their safe use. It is also recommended that users inspect their ladders before use every day to make sure they are climbing on a safe piece of equipment. SAFE CLIMBING AND CONSCIENTIOUS WORK PRACTICES ARE MEANINGLESS IF THE EQUIPMENT YOU ARE DEPENDING ON COLLAPSES UNDERNEATH YOU!"

2. Using the Wrong Ladders for the JOB.

"It is very disturbing to see A-frame ladders collapsed and leaned up against walls for climbing or extension ladders being propped up manually or by insufficient means in order to conduct work overhead. Straight and Extension ladders should be used for accessing other levels while self-supporting A-frames should be used for overhead work. I also see ladders that are too short for the job stacked up on pallets, tied together, propped up in the bed of a pickup truck, and worse. The only answer for having the wrong type or height of ladder is simple: JUST GET THE RIGHT LADDER FOR THE JOB!"

Second part of the of the 'Top 5' Ladder Usage Pet Peeves

Here is the Second part of the of the 'Top 5' Ladder Pet Peeves most commonly found on a Commercial Construction Site, Tom Harvick Representing Little Giant had the following comments:

3. Leveling ladders with job site debris: In order to level ladders on uneven ground , I see workers piling jobsite debris (bricks, boards...essentially junk) underneath and shimming the ladder in order to level it. Isn't your life worth more than junk?! Use ladders with leveling devices built in e.g. ratchet levelers so you are using an integral part of the ladder to level it, not garbage you find laying around the job site.

4. Not facing your work: Every day I see workers risk a twisting back injury along with pushing against the balance point of A-frame ladders by working sideways on them. It is always best to face the inside of your ladder and face your work, not to twist and/or straddle the top of the ladder. Most A-frame ladders make this difficult by putting you too far away from your work. Articulating and A-frame Ladders that are adjustable in height can be used in a 90 degree configuration for safer working against walls. Stop using Grandpa's ladder!

5. Ladders without labels: Would you use a ladder that the strange guy who lives down the block made? Then why would you use a ladder with no labels on it? OSHA requires that any ladder in use needs clear and legible labels. Otherwise, who knows who, when or what that ladder was designed for. If the labels are missing or covered in paint, etc., take the ladder out of service and replace the labels. If the ladder is also worn out, replace the entire thing. Ladders are not like fine wine, they do not get better with age.