



Scaffolding Safety Guide

The following tips should be used whenever dealing with scaffolding on the job.

- Don't mix scaffold components manufactured by different manufacturers.
- A qualified person should be involved in the design, construction and loading of scaffolds.
- Train each employee to recognize the hazards associated with scaffolding and to understand the procedures to control or minimize the hazards.
- Scaffolding and components must support its own weight and 4 times the maximum intended load applied.
- Each scaffold plank should be spaced between the platform and uprights by no more than one inch.
- Never use shore or lean-to scaffolds.
- Supported scaffolds with a height to base width ratio of more than four to one should be restrained from tipping by guying and bracing; footings should level, sound, rigid and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold without settling.
- There should be a minimum of three wire rope clips installed on suspension scaffolds; with the clips a minimum of 6 rope diameters apart.
- Gaining access to scaffolds should be done by ladders, ramps/walkways, stairs and direct access from another scaffold; cross braces should never be used.
- Employees should wear hard hats when assembling or disassembling scaffolds.
- Mobile scaffold casters and wheels should be locked with wheel or swivel locks.
 - Secure footings and check weight restrictions of the scaffold.
 - Guardrails should be 2" × 4" and 3'-3 1/2' high.
 - Toe boards should be at least 4" high along open sides.
 - Protect the people underneath the scaffold by installing a screen between the toe boards and guardrails.
 - Wood scaffolds: extend planks 6"-18" beyond the end supports.
 - Hard hats are required when working on or near a scaffold.
 - Wear non-skid shoes when working on a scaffold.
 - Keep only the tools and materials needed on the scaffold.
 - Keep all tools and equipment away from the edge.
 - Remove all equipment and tools from the scaffold at the end of the day.

Want to know more?

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