

LADDER SAFETY SERIES

Choose a safe location

**Choose a location that allows you to set up and work on your ladder safely.
Identify and address all hazards in your work area before you set up your ladder.**



Hazards to watch for

Working at heights always involves the risk of falling, so consider your options before grabbing the nearest ladder. Even when your task is above grade, with the appropriate equipment it might be possible to get the job done from the ground.

Uneven, unstable or wet surfaces

- Look for a location that allows you to place the base of your ladder on a firm and level surface.
- If you must work on wet ground, brace the base of your ladder to keep it in place.
- If you must work on uneven ground, consider using leg levellers.
- Do not place your ladder on unstable surfaces such as boxes or pallets.

Obstacles or constricted areas

- Look for a location that has enough room for you to properly set up your ladder.
- Look for a location that allows you to step on and off your ladder safely. The areas at the top and base of your ladder should be clear of tools, material, equipment and debris.
- Avoid placing the base of your ladder near edges, openings or sloping surfaces.
- Avoid placing your ladder near objects that will restrict your movement or cause you to lean outside your ladder's side rails.

Pedestrian and vehicle traffic

- If people, vehicles or mobile equipment might pass near or underneath your ladder, consider putting up warning signs or pylons, using barricade tape, blocking doors or adjusting the job schedule.

Overhead electrical hazards

- Make sure you correctly identify any overhead conductors in your work area so that you can stay the required distance away from them.

Environmental hazards

- Avoid setting up or working from your ladder during strong winds, heavy rain or snow, or when icy conditions are present.