

LADDER SAFETY SERIES

Employer responsibilities

As an employer, it's up to you to ensure that workers have what they need to work at heights safely. Here are some of the things you must do.



Ladders can be dangerous. It's up to you to make sure workers use ladders safely.

Plan to do the work safely

It is your responsibility to assess what the job requires and to plan and arrange the work.

Provide suitable equipment

Using scaffolding or another type of work platform, stairs or a ramp may be a safer choice than using a ladder. Ladders may be suitable for:

- accessing a work area, such as a roof, mezzanine or scaffolding
- minor maintenance tasks such as caulking, touch-up painting, inspection of gutters or other light-duty tasks that take no more than 15 minutes to complete

If you decide a ladder is suitable for the job, you must provide one that:

- is in good condition
- is tall and strong enough to allow workers to complete their work safely
- meets standards outlined under the *Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020*

Ensure workers are adequately trained

Provide workers, including supervisors, with information, instruction and training on ladder safety.

Ensure ladders are set up and used safely

Make sure you and your supervisors watch out for these key ladder safety requirements:

- Ladders must be inspected before use. Damaged or bent ladders must be taken out of service.
- Ladders must be placed on a firm and level surface and set up so that they are stable and secure.
- Straight or extension ladders must be set up at the required angle, using the 4-to-1 rule: for every four feet (1.2 metres) up, workers must place the base of their ladder one foot (0.3 metres) from the wall or upper support it rests against.
- Workers must maintain three-point contact – one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot – when climbing any ladder and when working from a straight or extension ladder.
- Workers must keep their bodies centred between the side rails.
- Workers must not work from the top two rungs or steps of a ladder, unless it is a stepladder that has a platform and handrail (*Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020 16-7(2)*).

Address safety issues

Make sure workers know that they should inform you or their supervisor about their ladder safety concerns or questions. Take appropriate corrective actions to address safety issues brought to your attention.