

STAY SAFE WITH SOCIETY

STEPLADDER SAFETY

Accident studies have shown that ladders are involved in more than 300 fatalities and about 100,000 injuries each year. Stepladders are involved in a high percentage of these falls. Does this mean that stepladders are unsafe? Not if they are set up, used, and maintained properly.

Most stepladder accidents involve unsafe practices and conditions. It is up to everyone to ensure that the equipment they use is in good physical condition and that they are using it properly.

Here is a list of ways to prevent some of the most common stepladder accidents:

- Do not stand on the top two steps of a stepladder. If you must go higher to perform your work, use a taller ladder.
- Make sure that all four legs of the stepladder are on even footing, and that the spreader is fully opened.
- Use the best tool for the job. Don't use a stepladder as a straight ladder. The legs are not designed for this, which can result in the base kicking out.
- Make sure that your stepladder is set in the best position to perform the work. If you must reach or bend excessively, stop and reposition the ladder.
- Do not use a metal ladder near electrical conductors.
- Face the ladder when working. Do not straddle the top or stand with your back to the rungs.
- Inspect stepladders for damage daily. Cracked steps and uprights or loose or missing parts can cause the ladder to collapse.
- If a stepladder is broken, remove it from service or destroy it to prevent future use. Do not attempt to repair a broken stepladder.
- Do not loan company ladders to other contractors.



**DO NOT USE A
STEPLADDER AS A
STRAIGHT LADDER.
THE LEGS ARE NOT
DESIGNED FOR THIS.**

A Small Detail
That Can Make a
Big Difference.

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This information is advisory, and it must not be assumed that it has detected all unsafe acts or conditions. This information is designed to assist you in recognizing potential safe work problems and not to establish compliance with any law, rule or regulation.

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