

According to OSHA, falls from portable ladders are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries.

OSHA Standard 1910.23(b)(9) states that the employer must ensure that *ladders are inspected before initial use in each work shift, and more frequently as necessary, to identify any visible defects that could cause employee injury.*



Remember these important safety precautions when working with step ladders:

- Always visually inspect all step ladders before use for any defects such as: missing/broken rungs, bolts, cleats, screws and loose components. Remove defective ladders from service immediately.
- Use the right ladder for the job!
- Always read the ladders warning labels and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for use.
- Only use a ladder that is rated to support the weight of your body and your tools/equipment.
- Make certain that the ladder is not loaded beyond the maximum intended load.
- Never use one side of a disassembled step ladder as an extension ladder.
- Never attempt to repair a ladder! Do not use wire, screws, bolts, duct tape or electrical tape as a way to fix the ladder; instead tag it and remove it from service.
- Never stand on the top rung or step of the step ladder. This makes the ladder very unstable and prone to tip over!
- Never face away from the step ladder! This can easily cause you to fall!
- Never overreach on a step ladder!
- Do not move or shift a ladder while a person or equipment is on the ladder. This could cause the materials or person to fall and cause serious injury.