

# ANCHOR POINT TYPES

The term *anchor point* is often used interchangeably with similar words and phrases like anchorages, anchors, or tie-off points. They all refer to the portion of the personal fall arrest system that serve as the attachment point for lifelines, lanyards or deceleration devices and are designed to remain secure under the forces generated during a fall. Examples of anchor points include:

- Permanent anchor points manufactured specifically for fall protection
- Steel members or I-beams, if an acceptable strap is available for the connection (do not use a lanyard with a snaphook clipped to itself)
- Large eye-bolts made of an appropriate grade steel
- Beam clamps
- Guardrails or railings if they have been designed for use as an anchor point
- Masonry or wood members, if the attachment point is substantial and precautions are made to assure that bolts or connectors will not pull through
- Other properly planned anchorages designed by a professional engineer or qualified person

Because strength is important when selecting an anchor point, some structural elements are clearly not designed to be anchorages. The following items should not be used as anchor points for personal fall protection systems.

- Conduit or Plumbing
- Ductwork, Overhead Pipes, or Pipe Vents
- Fans or Light Fixtures
- Ladders
- Lanyards
- Rebar
- Roof Stacks
- Scaffolding
- Standard Guardrails
- Standard Railings (like a rail on the basket of an aerial lift)
- Wiring Harnesses
- Anything not capable of meeting the OSHA structural load requirements



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## Discussion

***What are some examples of good anchor points that you can use on the job?***

***What are some bad examples of anchor points you've seen others use that can be dangerous?***