



Scaffolding – Safe Work Practices

Preventing falls

- Inspect the scaffold before you use it.
- Observe all safe practices regarding the use of ladders if ladders are used to access scaffold.
- Keep scaffold free of waste material, which can cause tripping or falling accidents.
- In winter, clean ice and snow off the scaffold before you use it.
- Make sure that handrails and toeboards are secure.
- Check to see that scaffold planks do not project more than six inches beyond the crossbeams. If the planks are too long, they are unstable.
- Never use a makeshift scaffold.
- Never jump from the scaffold to the ground.
- Never ride on a scaffold that is being moved by someone below.
- Make sure that you lock the caster brakes or block rollers on rolling scaffolds before you get up on the scaffold to work.

Preventing falling object hazards

- Observe good housekeeping rules on scaffold platforms.
- Make sure that toeboards are in place to prevent material from being kicked off.
- Don't allow tools or material to lie loose on a scaffold platform. Clean the platform at the end of each work shift.
- If there is anyone working above you, there should be overhead protection on your scaffold — in addition to your hard hat.
- Never throw anything — tools or materials for example — to another person. Always pass material that is to be shifted from one person to another.
- If material or tools are raised or lowered, use a hand line with bucket or canvas bag.
- A person at floor level who is hoisting a load with a hand line or lowering a load from a scaffold platform should stand in the clear, just in case the line snags and dumps the load unexpectedly.
- If masonry chipping or demolition work is being done, place a wire mesh screen in the space between the platform and the top handrail. Tarpaulins can be spread on the platform itself to prevent material from falling through.
- Where falling objects may be a regular hazard, hard hats are a must.

