

Watch Your Step on Scaffolds

Use a scaffold rated for the work you're doing.

- a light-duty scaffold for two or three people and hand tools
- a medium-duty scaffold for workers, tools and materials
- a heavy duty scaffold for stored materials

Set it up right...

- You must be trained to set up scaffolding.
- Lay floor planks tightly with no space between them. Planks should be the same size and thickness.
- Plank ends should extend 6 to 12 inches from the edge of the scaffold.
- Platforms 6 or more feet above the ground must have top rails, midrails and toe-boards on all open sides and ends.
- Always replace guardrails that you removed to load materials.
- Make sure wheels are locked on wheeled units.
- Use a ladder—not the scaffold's cross-braces—to climb onto the scaffold.
- Use correct procedures when anchoring suspended scaffolds.
- Always use a fall-arrest system when working on suspended scaffolds.
A fall-arrest system includes full-body harness, lanyard, rope grab and an independent vertical lifeline anchored to the top of the structure.

Avoid dangerous conditions...

- Avoid doing scaffold work during bad weather or extreme temperature conditions.
- Be sure that operators working nearby know you'll be there.
- Set up barricades to keep vehicles from hitting the scaffold.
- When working under or near a scaffold, use a hardhat.