



Scaffolds



72% of workers injured in scaffold accidents attributed the accident either to the planking or support giving way, or to the employee slipping or being struck by a falling object.

Pre-Plan

- Type of scaffold needed for the job
- Maximum load
- Good foundation
- How to avoid electrical hazards (3' away; 10' if over 300 volts)

Building Scaffolds

- Firm foundation, capable of supporting the loaded scaffold without settling or displacing
- Parts
 - Check for cracks, dents, bends, breaks, corrosion, & bad welds.
 - Check fittings for distorted, stripped, missing, or bent parts
 - Planks for cracks, splits, or other damage
- Put up plumb, square, & level
 - Instability will cause weight to shift, potentially causing overload of one leg & eventually collapse of the scaffold.
- Tie off if more than 4 times the minimum base width (4:1)
 - Every 20' for 3' wide scaffolds
 - Every 26' for wider
- Safe access
 - Use built in ladders - cross braces for access is not permitted
 - Working levels fully planked. No more than 1" between planks
- Fall protection
 - If more than 10' up
 - Guardrails or personal harness & lanyard (don't tie off to scaffold itself)
- Protect other employees
 - Toe boards / debris nets, canopies, or screens



Using Scaffolds

- Know your load limit (includes tools + people)
- Lock casters, before getting on scaffold
- Don't let junk collect on the scaffold. You could trip & fall.
- Keep scaffolds free of oil, grease, and other slippery hazards.
- If things can fall off the scaffold, people must be prevented from walking under or near it.
- Weather – don't use in storms, high winds, or ice/snow conditions.

Removing Scaffolding

- Same potential exposure to falls, electrocution, and other hazards as when building.
- Workers at lower levels must not get ahead of dismantlers by removing braces, planking, or guardrails to "speed the job up".
- Don't damage components by dropping them or throwing them around.