

HOME

MATTERS



Ladder Safety Basics

Ladders can be useful for completing a variety of household jobs, such as cleaning the leaves out of your gutters or touching up the paint on your exterior trim. However, if you reach just a little too far, you may find yourself on the ground. What's more, a fall from a ladder can cause major injuries, some of which can be fatal. That's why it's important to prioritize the following safety precautions whenever you use a ladder around the house.

Ladder Setup Precautions

- Make sure that you select the right ladder for the task you are doing by checking the length of the ladder and its duty rating.
- If you are doing work near power lines, never use a metal ladder because they conduct electricity.
- Before using a ladder, inspect it for damage to the rungs, spreaders and safety feet.
- Do not place a ladder in front of a door that is not locked or guarded.
- Place ladders on steady surfaces that are flat and firm.

Ladder Usage Precautions

- Do not be in a rush to finish a job, especially when working up high.
- Make sure that the weight your ladder is supporting does not exceed the maximum load rating.
- Do not allow more than one person on a ladder at a time.
- Stay centered between the rails of a ladder at all times and do not lean too far to the sides when working.
- Never step on the top step or stand on the rear section of a stepladder.
- Come down from a ladder if you start to feel dizzy or tired.

Watch Out for Kids

Kids are curious by nature and most are also fascinated by tools and gadgets. With this in mind, do not leave a raised ladder unattended—a curious little one could come by, climb up and take a dangerous tumble.

For additional home safety guidance and homeowners insurance solutions, contact us today.

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