

Job-Made Ladder Safety

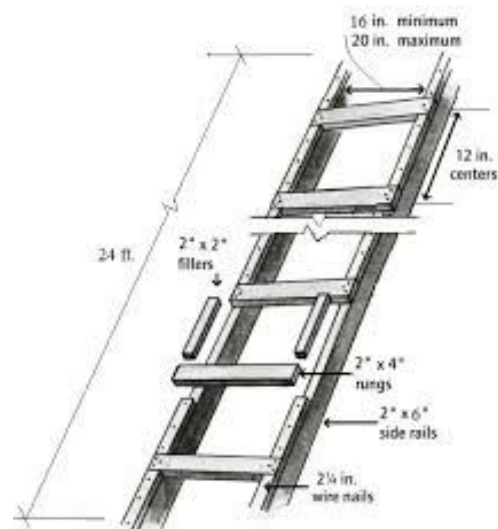
Toolbox Talk

Workers who use job-made wooden ladders risk permanent injury or death from falls. Review the hazards your team will encounter while working on job-made ladders and explains what they can do to avoid injuries.

Know the Risks

Using and working on ladders carries an inherent risk of falls. While consumer ladders are built to engineering standards, it's up to you to construct job-made ladders to the right specifications.

All ladder safety can be summed up this way: regular inspections, correct setup, and safe climbing.



Discussion

- Do you know someone who experienced a major accident or near miss due to unsafe job-made ladder use?
- What factors do you need to consider before making a job-built ladder?

Correct Construction

- Construct your ladder with construction grade lumber.
- The ladder should be no longer than 24 feet, excluding the side rail extension above the landing.
- The side rails should extend 36" to 42" above the landing.
- Side rails should be constructed with 2x6" lumber as a continuous piece.
- Rungs must be constructed with 1x4" or 2x4" construction grade lumber.
- The width of the rungs should be at least 16 inches, but not more than 20 inches.
- Use 2x2 in. pieces of lumber between rungs as fillers.
- Cleats must be equally spaced 12 inches on center from the top of one to the next.
- The ladder's base should be properly secured on a flat surface.

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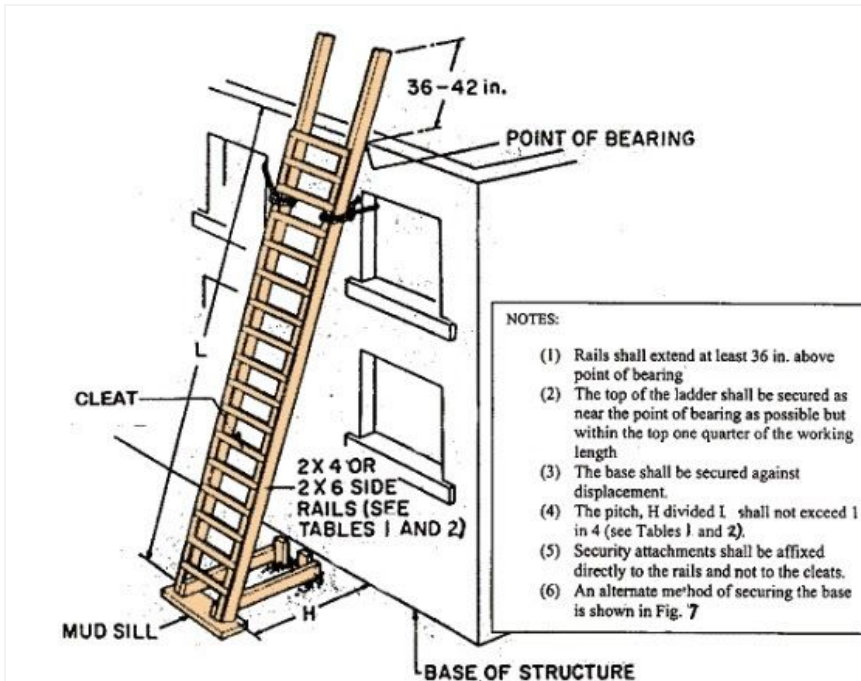


Figure 1. Single-Cleat Job-Made Ladder

Use Ladders Safely

- Inspect the ladder prior to use. Repair anything that could snag clothes or cause punctures.
- If there are loose or damaged components repair the ladder or mark it unsafe for use.
- If a side rail has damage leading to instability, it must be completely replaced, not patched.
- Maintain the landings at the top and base of the ladder, keeping them clear of tools, cords, and debris.
- **Use ladders safely every time. Even when you want to just get 'er done, risking yourself and others isn't worth it.**

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Toolbox Talk 

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On (MM/DD/YY):

At (Name of Jobsite):

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