

The Safe Set-Up: Scaffold Safety



Scaffold Set-up

- Start with a solid, level foundation:
 - base plates on scaffold legs
 - mudsills on compressible surfaces
 - solid surface within three degrees of level
- Use a secure scaffold frame:
 - all braces, hardware, and equipment in place and secured
 - lateral or diagonal bracing in place on mobile scaffolds
 - no missing or damaged parts
 - no mixing of manufacturers' parts
- Erect solid walking and working surfaces:
 - decking complete between uprights
 - planking certified for use on scaffolding
- Brace scaffolding when height is more than four times the width of base:
 - tie-off points to adjacent structure
 - mobile scaffold's height can't exceed four-to-one height-to-width of base ratio

Load limits

- Scaffold must support its own weight plus four times the maximum intended load.
- Check capacity markings on frame and planks of frame scaffolds.
- Check load rating on wheels of mobile scaffolds.



Safe Access

- Maintain safe access to scaffold platforms:
 - portable access ladder that extends at least three feet above the deck
 - don't climb open frames or cross braces
 - lock all wheels before climbing up a mobile scaffold

Fall Prevention

- Use fall prevention or protection when working at 10 feet or higher:
 - guardrail system
 - personal fall arrest system

Safe Work Practices

- Keep platform clear of trip hazards.
- Check ladder for slip hazards.
- Use only the materials you need immediately to avoid overloading platform.
- Hoist materials up to platform instead of carrying them.
- Never stand on boxes or ladders/planks laid across mid-rails.
- Move a mobile scaffold to keep the work within the area of the platform.

Moving Mobile Scaffolds

- Carefully follow the requirements for riding on a mobile scaffold.
- Determine whether workers should climb down before moving scaffold.
- Inform everyone about the move before it happens.
- Secure or remove materials.
- Weight must be evenly distributed.
- If you're on the scaffold, don't try to move it yourself.
- Push close to the base.
- Avoid sources of electrical power and other overhead obstructions.