

Inspection of Ladders

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OSHA says that all ladders must be inspected regularly for visible defects by a competent person and after any incident that could affect its safe use. Check your ladders for damage before each use. If you find a damaged ladder let your supervisor know. Red tag it to take it out of service.

Points to Remember:

Inspect wood ladders for cracks or splits in the wood.

Check all ladders to make sure that rungs or steps are tight and secure.

Be sure that all hardware and fittings are properly and securely attached.

Test moveable parts that they move freely without binding or that they are not too loose.

Inspect metal or fiberglass ladders for dents, bends, breaks, or other damage.

Make sure that ladders are not painted because paint can cover damage or defects.

Make sure that stepladders have spreaders that are not bent and will lock when the ladder is fully open.

Make sure that extension ladders have both non-skid safety feet on them, and they work.

Make sure that the pulley works, and the rope is not frayed.

Do not make repairs to damaged ladders.

Make sure that oil, grease, or ice is cleaned off ladders as they are slip hazards

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