# HOW TO SELECT A LADDER

A GUIDE

## 1. SELECT A TYPE



### STEPLADDER

The most popular style of ladder. Used from medium to low heights. Utilize pail shelves and tops to hold tools for the job.



### TWIN FRONT LADDER

Allows two users to work on the same ladder simultaneously. Easily accomplish tasks that would be more difficult for a single person.



### PLATFORM LADDER

Combines step ladder and warehouse ladder technology. The non-pinch platform provides a large standing area for work.



### EXTENSION LADDER

The most versatile style of ladder, found in a variety of sizes. Most commonly used for higher elevations.

## 2. SELECT A LADDER MATERIAL

DO NOT USE ALUMINUM LADDERS NEAR ELECTRICITY

### ALUMINUM

- Lightweight
- Long-lasting construction
- Resists corrosion
- Ideal for painting, roofing, and siding

FIBERGLASS LADDERS ARE SAFE FOR WORKING AROUND ELECTRICITY

### FIBERGLASS

- Non-conductive when clean and dry
- Strong and durable
- Weather-resistant
- Great for heavy-duty construction

## 3. SELECT A LOAD CAPACITY

TYPE **IAA**
**375** LBS. LOAD CAPACITY
*INCLUDES WEIGHT OF USER PLUS MATERIALS*

**TYPE IAA:** Professional use. Extra heavy duty. Capable of supporting 375 lbs.
**USES:** MRO and industrial construction.

TYPE **IA**
**300** LBS. LOAD CAPACITY
*INCLUDES WEIGHT OF USER PLUS MATERIALS*

**TYPE IA:** Professional use. Extra heavy duty. Capable of supporting 300 lbs.
**USES:** Roofing, building maintenance, contracting and industrial construction.

TYPE **I**
**250** LBS. LOAD CAPACITY
*INCLUDES WEIGHT OF USER PLUS MATERIALS*

**TYPE I:** Industrial use. Heavy duty. Capable of supporting 250 lbs.
**USES:** Building maintenance, general contracting and sheet rock.

TYPE **II**
**225** LBS. LOAD CAPACITY
*INCLUDES WEIGHT OF USER PLUS MATERIALS*

**TYPE II:** Commercial use. Medium duty. Capable of supporting 225 lbs.
**USES:** Light commercial and general repair, painting and cleaning.

TYPE **III**
**200** LBS. LOAD CAPACITY
*INCLUDES WEIGHT OF USER PLUS MATERIALS*

**TYPE III:** Household use. Light duty. Capable of supporting 200 lbs.
**USES:** Light cleaning and painting.

## 4. SELECT A HEIGHT

### STEPLADDERS

| LADDER SIZE | APPROX. HIGHEST STANDING LEVEL | MAXIMUM REACH^ |
|---|---|---|
| 4' | 1' 11" | 8' 6" |
| 5' | 2' 10" | 9' 5" |
| 6' | 3' 9" | 10' 4" |
| 7' | 4' 9" | 11' 4" |
| 8' | 5' 8" | 12' 3" |
| 10' | 7' 7" | 14' 2" |
| 12' | 9' 6" | 16' 1" |
| 14' | 11' 5" | 18' |
| 16' | 13' 4" | 19' 11" |
| 18' | 15' 3" | 21' 10" |
| 20' | 17' 2" | 23' 8" |

### EXTENSION LADDERS

| LADDER SIZE | MAXIMUM EXTENDED LENGTH | MAX. REACH^ | WORKING RANGE TO TOP SUPPORT* | MAXIMUM ACCESSIBLE ROOF HEIGHT RANGE* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16' | 13' | 15' 11" | 7 ½' – 12 ½' | 4 ½'–9 ½' |
| 20' | 17' | 19' 10" | 9 ½' – 16 ½' | 6 ½'–13 ½' |
| 24' | 21' | 23' 8" | 11 ½' – 20' | 8 ½'–17' |
| 28' | 25' | 27' 7" | 13 ½' – 24' | 10 ½'–21' |
| 32' | 29' | 31' 5" | 15 ½'– 28' | 12 ½'–25' |
| 36' | 32' | 34' 4" | 17 ½' – 31' | 14'–28' |
| 40' | 35' | 37' 3" | 19' – 33 ½' | 16'–30 ½' |
| 44' | 39' | 41' 1" | 21' – 37 ½' | 18'–34 ½' |
| 48' | 43' | 45' | 23' – 41 ½' | 20'–38 ½' |
| 60' | 48' | 49' 10" | 23' – 46 ½' | 20'–43 ½' |

^Assumes 5' 7" person with 12" vertical reach
*When set up at the proper 75 1/2° angle

# HOW TO SAFELY USE OUR LADDERS

*AT LOUISVILLE LADDER,* all of our products are designed and constructed to meet or exceed applicable standards and requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Please read the information on this page before using our products. Your safety is important to us.

## ANSI

Meets or exceeds requirements of American National Standards Institute

Louisville Ladder, Inc. manufactures products in compliance with the applicable safety codes of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). There are a variety of ANSI safety codes depending on material and type of ladder. You can find a list of them in the figure below.

In addition, ANSI codes have established a Duty Rating which identifies the use for which a portable ladder is intended and the conditions under which the ladder can be used safely. An extensive series of tests and design requirements determines which Duty Rating label a particular ladder may receive. The total load supported includes the combined weight of the user, clothing, tools and any materials on the ladder. However, ladders must be used properly in order to support the intended load. See section "Select Load Capacity" on page 6 for more information on ANSI Duty Ratings.

| | |
|---|---|
| ROLLING SCAFFOLDS: | ANSI A10.8 |
| PLANKS & STAGES: | ANSI A10.8 |
| WOOD LADDERS: | ANSI A14.1 |
| STEP STOOLS: | ANSI A14.11 |
| METAL LADDERS: | ANSI A14.2 |
| FIBERGLASS LADDERS: | ANSI A14.5 |
| STEEL LADDERS: | ANSI A14.7 |
| ATTIC LADDERS: | ANSI A14.9 |

## MEETS OSHA REQUIREMENTS

The OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) regulates the adequacy of ladders and the work practices followed by employees using them in two sections: Portable ladders used in General industry (1910.23) and portable ladders used in Construction Industry (1926.1053). These sections specify the standards to which all portable ladders must be manufactured, care and placement of ladders in the workplace, and the safe use of ladders on the job. OSHA sets minimum national requirements with respect to the use of ladders in business and industry. However, many states have enacted their own regulations under the Occupational Safety & Health Act that establish more severe requirements. The more demanding state codes will supersede OSHA standards within their respective states. Therefore, users should check with their own state OSHA representatives.

## CSA

Where applicable, product meets or exceeds CANADIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTE testing requirements.




**DANGER:** Metal ladders conduct electricity; do not use where contact may be made with live electrical circuits. Failure to read and follow instructions on the use of this product could result in serious personal injury or death.

*SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.* Even a rigidly constructed ladder can be involved in an accident if the proper cautions are not taken in its use. Critical factors in safe use include reading all instructions and labels accompanying the ladder.

PROPER SELECTION
- Refer to product labels for Highest Standing Level and Working Load Capacity information.
- Select the ladder size to reach your work without climbing above the Highest Standing Level or overreaching.
- Weight of user, tools and materials shall not exceed Working Load Capacity. Ladders are available with duty ratings of 200, 225, 250, 300 and 375 lbs.
- Use a fiberglass or wood ladder if working with or around electricity.

INSPECTION BEFORE EACH USE
- Inspect before use. Do not use ladders with missing, loose, damaged, or non-operating parts.
- Make sure locks are in good working order.
- Replace heavily worn feet and illegible labels.
- Contact manufacturer for parts.
- Keep ladder and hinges clean and free of slippery substances.

CONSIDER BEFORE EACH USE
- Use ladder only as outlined in instructions. Ladders are designed for one person only unless otherwise noted (i.e. twin front ladders). Do not overload.
- Do not use ladders if you are in poor health, if taking any drugs or alcoholic beverages, or if physically handicapped.
- Use help in setting up ladder, if possible
- Ladders are not to be set up on scaffolds.
- Metal ladders conduct electricity. Keep away from wires and electrical circuits.
- Consult manufacturer for use in chemical or other corrosive environments.
- Do not use ladders in high winds or during a storm.
- Secure ladder from excessive movement (e.g. tie off, block, brace, etc.)
- Pay close attention to what you are doing.

STEP LADDERS – Proper Set-up and Use
- Fully open ladder and lock spreader braces.
- Set all four feet on a firm level surface. Do not place on unstable, loose or slippery surfaces.
- Place ladder where access is not obstructed. Do not place in front of unlocked doors.
- Maintain a firm grip. Use both hands in climbing.
- Climb only front side of ladder. Face ladder when climbing and working.
- Do not step on the top step or top cap.
- Do not straddle front and back. Do not climb from the step ladder onto another ladder or surface.
- Do not over-reach. Keep body centered between the side rails. Get down and move ladder as needed.
- Avoid pushing or pulling off to side of ladder. Do not "walk" or "shift" ladder while on it.

SINGLE & EXTENSION LADDERS – Proper Setup and Use
- Retract ladder sections fully before lifting or moving.
- Raise and lower ladder from ground only; never from the top.
- Set ladder feet on firm, level surface and both rails against a firm support at the top.
- Make sure ladder does not lean to side. Ladder leveling devices are available for use on uneven ground.
- Do not place on unstable, loose, or slippery surfaces without securing from movement (e.g. tie off, block, brace, etc.)
- Place ladder where access is not obstructed. Do not place in front of unlocked doors.
- Extend fly section and secure runglocks. Make sure rope does not create a tripping hazard or interfere with activity near ladder.
- Do not overextend. A minimum overlap of sections is required as follows:
  - — ladder size up to and including 32'–3' overlap
  - — over 32' up to and including 36'–4' overlap
  - — over 36' up to and including 48'–5' overlap
  - — sizes over 48'–6' overlap
- Ladder must make a 75 1/2° angle with the ground. Obtain this angle as follows:
  - — Place toes against bottom of ladder side rails
  - — Stand erect
  - — Adjust angle so you can grasp lowest ladder section with palms on the outside of the rails, arms extended straight at shoulder level
- To confirm if ladder is at proper angle – Determine the distance along the rail between the top and bottom support points of the ladder. Divide this distance by 4. The result will be the horizontal distance between the top and bottom support points.
- When using ladder for access to roof, extend top 3 feet above roof edge. Tie or secure top from movement.
- Recommend tying bottom fly rung to adjacent base rung, or engaging Quicklatch™, when available.
- Face ladder when climbing and working.
- Maintain a firm grip. Use both hands in climbing.
- Do not over-reach. Keep body centered between the side rails. Get down and move ladder as needed.
- Do not climb above top support point. Do not climb from one ladder to another.
- Do not straddle or sit on rungs
- Avoid pushing or pulling off to side of ladder. Do not "walk" or "shift" ladder while on it.

PROPER CARE AND STORAGE

Hang ladder on racks at intervals of 6' for support

Never store materials on ladder

Never drop or apply an impact load to ladder

Securely support ladder in transit

Never paint a wood ladder. Treat with wood preservative.

Protect wood ladder from exposure to the elements, but allow good ventilation. Keep away from heat and moisture.

For additional information see applicable ANSI Safety standards; A14.1–Wood; A14.2–Aluminum; A14.5–Fiberglass.