



A scaffold is a temporary structure used on construction sites as a work platform. Scaffolds are utilized when operating at heights or in regions that would be difficult to access otherwise. Scaffolds can be dangerous if necessary safeguards are not followed. Improper installation or use can result in significant, perhaps fatal, injuries.

What additional precautions should you take?

Preparation and suitable hazard controls will guarantee that the scaffold is safely erected and utilized. Scaffolds must be erected, inspected, and dismantled by a qualified individual. A "competent person" is someone who is qualified to accomplish the given task in a way that ensures the health and safety of workers in the workplace due to their knowledge, training, and experience. This individual is familiar with the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Regulations that apply to the given task.

Safe Scaffold use:

- Avoid using damaged parts that compromise the scaffold's strength.
- Before working on the scaffold, make sure personnel are in good health.
- Do not work from any other section of the scaffold than the platform.
- Make certain that the scaffold fits the manufacturer's specs.
- Unless it is a power raised work platform, do not move the scaffold horizontally while personnel are on it.
- Ensure that no scaffold is erected, used, altered, or moved within the minimum approach distance of overhead power lines.
- Never work on scaffolds in inclement weather or severe winds.
- Workers should be aware of the scaffold's weight restrictions so that they are not overloaded.
- When working on a platform, do not utilize ladders, boxes, barrels, or other improvised items to boost your work height.
- Scaffolds must be free of ice, and other slick materials.

On the work site:

- Erect and deconstruct scaffolds according to manufacturer's specifications while under the supervision of a competent person.
- Ensure that finished floors are safe and capable of holding the load of a scaffold or work platform, as well as providing a strong foundation.
- Ensure that scaffold design specs are always available on site.
- Ensure safe access to and from scaffolds and work platforms.
- Make certain that workers operate inside the scaffold's structure.
- Use only appropriate accesses. Never walk between scaffold systems or on the system's outside.
- Keep debris off of scaffolds and work platforms. Keep tools and supplies as tidy as possible to avoid things dropping and workers stumbling.

Safety rules are your best tools!

