

Supported Scaffolding Safety

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General Guidelines to follow:

- Many construction accidents result from improper construction and use of scaffolds. Height is not the only factor: short falls are also dangerous.
- While each type of scaffold has its own particular hazards, they each have common major problems. Workers fall from scaffolds and injure themselves just as tools fall off scaffolds and injure others.
- When scaffolds and staging are properly designed and constructed, and when workers observe proper safety measures and maintenance, hazards concerning scaffolds will be brought to a minimum.
- Scaffolds constructed for safety provide safe working conditions.
- Uprights must have secure footing. This is especially important when they rest on earth, sand or other loose material.
- Top and mid guard rails and toe boards make for safe working conditions on scaffolds. Hand rails on open ends keep workers from falling off scaffolds and working platforms.
- Toe boards are fastened to the inside of uprights. With metal tubular scaffolds, toe boards are nailed to platform plants or bolted to inside of uprights.
- With construction scaffolds, nails should be of the proper size and used properly. A minimum of four nails per joint is recommended, and all nails should be driven home. No nail should be subjected to direct pull.
- Only designated scaffolding materials should be used.
Scaffold working platforms must be kept free of rubbish and of snow, ice, oil or grease.
- Tools should not be left on scaffolds overnight, nor should there be stockpiling of materials on scaffolds.
- Never build an open fire upon or near wooden scaffolds, or metal scaffolds with flammable components.
- Workers using a swinging scaffold should wear safety belts with lanyards properly fastened to independent safety lines.
- Hard hats must be worn on scaffolds, particularly if work is being carried on overhead.