

# Top tips for ladder and stepladder safety



## Set-up for leaning ladders

- Do a daily pre-use check (include ladder feet)
- Secure it
- Ground should be firm and level
- Maximum safe ground side slope  $16^{\circ}$  (level the rungs with a suitable device)
- Maximum safe ground back slope  $6^{\circ}$
- Have a strong upper resting point (not plastic guttering)
- Floors should be clean, not slippery

## Leaning ladders in-use

- Short duration work (maximum 30 minutes)
- Light work (up to 10 kg)
- Ladder angle  $75^{\circ}$  – 1 in 4 rule (1 unit out for every 4 units up)
- Always grip the ladder when climbing
- Do not overreach - make sure your belt buckle (navel) stays within the stiles and keep both feet on the same rung or step throughout the task
- Do not work off the top three rungs – this provides a handhold

## Set-up for stepladders

- Daily pre-use check (feet included)
- Ensure there is space to fully open
- Use any locking devices
- Ground should be firm and level
- Floors should be clean, not slippery

## Stepladders in-use

- Short duration work (maximum 30 minutes)
- Light work (up to 10 kg)
- Do not work off the top two steps (top three steps for swing-back/double-sided stepladders) unless you have a safe handhold on the steps
- Avoid side-on working
- Do not overreach – make sure your belt buckle (navel) stays within the stiles and keep both feet on the same rung or step throughout the task

## Further information

*Safe use of ladders and stepladders: An employers' guide* INDG402 HSE Books 2005 (single copy free or priced packs of 5 ISBN 0 7176 6105 9)

More information can be found at:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/index.htm>

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This pocket card contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

This pocket card is available in priced packs of 25 from HSE Books, ISBN 0 7176 6127 X. Single free copies are also available from HSE Books, Tel: 01787 881165.

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