

Orchard Ladder Safety

Oregon-OSHA Requirements

Division 4, Subdivision D: Work Surfaces

Orchard ladders are defined as a self-supporting tripod ladder of fixed length. It has two front side rails and a single back supporting leg.

Construction & Maintenance Requirements

- Each step of **wooden** orchard ladders must have one of the following reinforcements:
 - A steel rod (at least 0.16 inches in diameter) that passes through metal washers big enough to prevent pressing into the side rails, and through a truss block between the rod and the center of each step.**OR**
 - A metal angle brace on each end firmly secured to the steps and side rails.**OR**
 - Construction of equivalent strength and safety.
- If the ladder has rod reinforcement, the bottom step must also have a metal angle brace on each end securely attached to the bottom step and side rails.
- All steps 27 inches or longer must have a metal angle brace at each end securely attached to the step and rail.
- The minimum width between side rails at the highest step for standing, inside to inside, is 9.5 inches. From top to bottom the side rails must spread at least an average of 2.5 inches for each foot of ladder length.
- All orchard ladders must have a top with tightly secured wood or metal brackets or fittings, side rails and back leg. The back leg must swing freely without excessive play or wear at the joints.
- There must be no dents, breaks or bends in the side rails or rungs.

Training

See portable ladders checklist on the following pages for some important safety training topics.

- Prior to assigning an employee to work with orchard ladders, the employer must assure that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to use the ladder safely.
- OR**
- The employer must train new employees about the requirements of this standard and the special procedures and cautions associated with using an orchard ladder.

Use and Care

- Do not use orchard ladders longer than 16 feet.
- Do not use the top as a step.
- Do not allow more than one person at a time on ladders.
- Do not step or jump between two or more erected ladders.
- Do not use ladders to gain additional height from already elevated surfaces like scaffolds, truck beds, vehicle bodies, tractor scoops or boom truck buckets.
- Inspect ladders before each use. Do not use any with defects, loose, warped, bent or broken parts. Tag these ladders, "Dangerous, Do Not Use" until they are fixed.
- Do not use metal ladders or wood ladders with vertical metal parts for electrical work or where they may contact electric conductors. This type ladder must have markings reading "WARNING – do not use around energized electrical equipment" or words of equal meaning.

Portable Ladders



Most workers injured in falls from ladders are less than 10 feet above the ladder's base!

- ☐ Inspect your ladder for tight joints between steps and side rails, cracks, rust, broken rungs and rails, and oily or greasy rungs.
- ☐ Ensure non-slip safety feet on each ladder or, secure ladder to prevent it from sliding on slippery surfaces.
- ☐ Step ladders must have a metal spreader bar.
- ☐ Extend ladder at least 36 inches (3 feet) above the surface served. See Diagram.
- ☐ Check the ladder's rating and don't subject it to a load greater than its rated capacity.
- ☐ Use only non-conductive ladders near electrical conductors.
- ☐ Set the ladder on solid footing, against a solid support.
- ☐ Place the base of non-self supporting ladders out away from the wall or edge of the upper level one foot for every four feet of vertical height (1:4). See Diagram.
- ☐ Never increase the height of a ladder by standing it on other objects, such as boxes, barrels, or by splicing two ladders together.
- ☐ Keep ladders away from doorways or walkways, unless they can be protected by barriers.
- ☐ Climb the ladder carefully, facing it and using both hands. Use a tool belt or hand line to carry materials.
- ☐ Keep your body centered. Never let your belt buckle pass beyond either ladder rail. If something is out of reach, get down and move the ladder.
- ☐ Never use ladders as sideways platforms, runways or scaffolds.



Escaleras Portátiles



¡La mayoría de trabajadores lesionados en caídas desde escaleras están a menos de 10 pies de la base de la escalera!

- ☐ Inspeccione su escalera y asegúrese de juntas apretadas entre los peldaños y rieles laterales, y por grietas, corrosión, peldaños y rieles rotos y peldaños grasos o aceitosos.
- ☐ Asegúrese que cada escalera tenga patas de seguridad o amarre la escalera para que ella no se deslice en superficies resbalosas.
- ☐ Escaleras de tijera deben tener barras de tensión de metal.
- ☐ Extienda las escaleras por lo menos 36 pulgadas (3 pies) por encima de la superficie en uso. Ver diagrama.
- ☐ Verifique la clasificación de la escalera y no la someta a una carga superior a la capacidad clasificada.
- ☐ Use solamente escaleras de material no conductor cerca de conductos eléctricos.
- ☐ Coloque la escalera sobre una fundación sólida y contra un soporte sólido.
- ☐ Coloque la base de escaleras sin soporte propio de tal manera que entre la base de la escalera y la pared exista una separación de un pie horizontal por cada cuatro pies de altura (1:4). Ver diagrama.
- ☐ Nunca intente aumentar la altura de una escalera colocándola sobre otros objetos, tales como cajas, barriles, ni empalmado dos escaleras entre sí.
- ☐ Mantenga las escaleras alejadas de puertas de acceso o pasillos a menos que éstas puedan protegerse con barreras.
- ☐ Suba cuidadosamente por la escalera, de frente y utilizando ambas manos. Use un cinturón de herramientas o una cuerda de mano para subir el material.
- ☐ Mantenga su cuerpo centrado. Nunca permita que la hebilla del cinturón salga más allá de cualquiera de los largueros. Si algo se encuentra fuera de su alcance, bájese y mueva la escalera.
- ☐ Nunca use las escaleras como plataformas horizontales, pasarelas de acceso ni andamios.

