

Ladder Safety Inspection Checklist

To prevent falls from ladders, make sure you have the following controls in place:

	Completed	Comments
Only use ladders that are in good condition and designed to handle the climbing job to be done.		
Train employees on proper ladder use.		
Make proper ladder use a performance requirement for the job.		
Require employees to complete a ladder inspection before each use.		
Criteria for Ladder Purchase and Care	Completed	Comments
Check OSHA standards for the type of ladder in use.		
Use only Underwriter's Laboratory approved ladders (will have the UL seal).		
Protect wood ladders with a clear sealer, such as varnish, shellac, linseed oil or wood preservative because paint can hide defects.		
Ladder Usage	Completed	Comments
Be sure step ladders are fully open and locked before climbing them.		
Place ladder on a flat, solid, and secure surface.		
Place ladder on non-movable base.		
Lean ladder against a secure surface, not boxes or barrels.		
Do not place ladder in front of a door.		
Position base of ladder one foot away for every four feet of height to where it rests (1:4 ratio).		



Ladder rails should extend at least three feet above top landing.		
Check shoes to ensure they are free of grease or mud.		
Mount the ladder from the center, not from the side.		
Face ladder when ascending or descending and hold on with both hands.		
Carry tools in pockets, in a bag attached to a belt, or raised and lowered by rope.		
Do not climb higher than the third rung from the top.		
Work facing the ladder.		
Do not overreach and always keep your torso between the ladder rails.		
When using ladder for high places, securely lash or fasten the ladder to prevent slipping.		
Avoid outdoor ladder use on windy days.		
Avoid aluminum ladders if work must be done around electrical wires or power lines.		

KEMI does not assume liability for the content of information contained herein. Safety and health remain your responsibility. This information is to be used for informational purposes only and not intended to be exhaustive or a substitute for proper training, supervision or manufacturers' instructions/recommendations. KEMI, by publication of this information, does not assume liability for damage or injury arising from reliance upon it. Compliance with this information is not a guarantee or warranty that you will be in conformity with any laws or regulations nor does it ensure the absolute safety of any person, place or object, including, but not limited to, you, your occupation, employees, customers or place of business.