HOW TO SAFELY USE OUR LADDERS

AT LOUISVILLE LADDER, all of our products are designed and constructed to meet or exceed applicable standards and requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Please read the information on this page before using our products. Your safety is important to us.

Louisville Ladder, Inc. manufactures products in compliance with the applicable safety codes of the **AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ANSI).** There are a variety of ANSI safety codes depending on material and type of ladder. You can find a list of them in the figure on the right.

In addition, ANSI codes have established a Duty Rating which identifies the use for which a portable ladder is intended and the conditions under which the ladder can be used safely. An extensive series of tests and design requirements determines which Duty Rating label a particular ladder may receive. The total load supported includes the combined weight of the user, clothing, tools and any materials on the ladder. However, ladders must be used properly in order to support the intended load. See section "Select Load Capacity" of page 6 for more information on ANSI Duty Ratings.

ROLLING SCAFFOLDS: **ANSI A10.8**
PLANKS & STAGES: **ANSI A10.8**
WOOD LADDERS: **ANSI A14.1**
METAL LADDERS: **ANSI A14.2**
FIBERGLASS LADDERS: **ANSI A14.5**
STEEL LADDERS: **ANSI A14.7**
ATTIC LADDERS: **ANSI A14.9**

ANSI
Meets or exceeds requirements of American National Standards Institute

The **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)** regulates the adequacy of ladders and the work practices followed by employees using them in five sections: Portable Wood (1910.25), Portable Metal (1910.26), Fixed Ladders (1910.27), Mobile Ladder Stands and Scaffolds (1910.29) and ladders used in Construction Industry (1926.1053). These sections specify the standards to which all portable ladders must be manufactured, care and placement of ladders in the workplace, and the safe use of ladders on the job.

OSHA sets minimum national requirements with respect to the use of ladders in business and industry. However, many states have enacted their own regulations under the Occupational Safety & Health Act that establish more severe requirements. The more demanding state codes will supersede OSHA standards within their respective states. Therefore, users should check with their own state OSHA representatives.

MEETS OSHA REQUIREMENTS

Where applicable, product meets or exceeds **CANADIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTE** testing requirements.

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY. Even a rigidly constructed ladder can be involved in an accident if the proper cautions are not taken in its use. Critical factors in safe use include reading all instructions and labels accompanying the ladder.

PROPER SELECTION

Select ladder of proper duty rating to support combined weight of user and materials. Ladders are available with duty ratings of 200, 225, 250, 300 and 375 lbs. Select ladder of proper length to safely reach desired height.

INSPECTION BEFORE EACH USE

- Inspect thoroughly for missing or damaged components. Never use a damaged ladder and never make temporary repairs.
- Inspect thoroughly for loose fasteners. Make sure all working parts are in good working order (lubricate if necessary).
- Clean ladder of all foreign material (wet paint, mud, snow, grease, oil, etc).
- Destroy ladder if damaged, worn, or exposed to fire or chemicals

CONSIDER BEFORE EACH USE

- Metal ladders conduct electricity. Keep away from electrical circuits.
- Consult manufacturer for use in chemical or other corrosive environments.
- Use ladder only as outlined in instructions. Ladders are designed for one person only unless otherwise noted (i.e. twin front ladders). Do not overload.
- Do not use in high winds or during storm
- Do not use if in poor health, if taking any drugs or alcoholic beverages, or if physically handicapped
- Keep shoes clean. Leather soles should not be worn.
- Never leave ladder set up and unattended
- Pay close attention to what you are doing

STEP LADDERS – PROPER SETUP AND USE

- Use help in setting up ladder, if possible
- Make sure ladder is fully open and spreaders locked
- Set all feet on firm, level surface. Do not place on unstable, loose or slippery surfaces. Place ladder where access is not obstructed. Do not place in front of unlocked doors. Ladders are not intended to be used on scaffolds.
- Secure ladder, where possible, from excessive movement
- Make sure spreaders are locked and ladder is stable before climbing
- Climb only front side of ladder. Face ladder when climbing up or down. Maintain a firm grip. Use both hands in climbing.
- Keep body centered between side rails. Do not overreach. Get down and move ladder as needed.
- Do not climb, stand, or sit above second step from top. Do not climb, stand, or sit on spreader braces, ladder top, or pail shelf.
- Do not straddle front and back. Do not climb from one ladder onto another.
- Avoid pushing or pulling off to side of ladder. Do not "walk" or "shift" ladder while on it.

For additional information see ANSI A14.1–Wood; A14.2–Aluminum; A14.5–Fiberglass. Twin front (mechanic) ladders and extension trestle ladders may be climbed from either side.

SINGLE & EXTENSION LADDERS – PROPER SETUP AND USE

- Use help in setting up ladder, if possible
- Set base of ladder on firm, level surface. Ladder leveling devices are available for use on uneven ground. Place ladder where access is not obstructed.
- Do not place on unstable, loose, or slippery surfaces. Do not place in front of unlocked doors. Ladders are not intended to be used on scaffolds.
- Secure base section before raising ladder to upright position. Do not raise or lower with fly section extended.
- Extend fly section and engage runglocks. Make sure rope does not create a tripping hazard or interfere with activity near ladder.
- Recommend tying bottom fly rung to adjacent base rung
- Extend and retract fly section only from ground and when no one is on ladder.
- Do not overextend. A minimum overlap of sections is required as follows:
  - — ladder size up to and including 32'–3' overlap
  - — over 32' up to and including 36'–4' overlap
  - — over 36' up to and including 48'–5' overlap
  - — sizes over 48'–6' overlap
- Position ladder against upper support surface. Make sure ladder does not lean to side. Ladder must make a 75 1/2° angle with the ground.
- To establish if ladder is at proper angle – Determine the distance along the rail between the top and bottom support points of the ladder. Divide this distance by 4. The result will be the horizontal distance between the top and bottom support points.
- When using ladder for access to roof, extend top 3 feet above roof edge. Tie or secure top from movement.
- Make sure top and bottom ends of ladder are firmly supported
- Check that top and bottom of ladder are properly supported. Make sure runglocks are engaged before climbing.
- Face ladder when climbing up or down. Maintain a firm grip.
- Use both hands in climbing
- Keep body centered between side rails. Do not overreach. Get down and move ladder as needed.
- Do not climb above top support point. Do not climb from one ladder to another.
- Do not straddle or sit on rungs
- Avoid pushing or pulling off to side of ladder. Do not "walk" or "shift" ladder while on it.

PROPER CARE AND STORAGE

- Hang ladder on racks at intervals of 6' for support
- Never store materials on ladder
- Never drop or apply an impact load to ladder
- Securely support ladder in transit
- Never paint a wood ladder. Treat with wood preservative.
- Protect wood ladder from exposure to the elements, but allow good ventilation. Keep away from heat and moisture.

STEEL CONDUCTS ELECTRICITY DANGER ALUMINUM CONDUCTS ELECTRICITY DANGER

DANGER: Metal ladders conduct electricity; do not use where contact may be made with live electrical circuits. Failure to read and follow instructions on the use of this product could result in serious personal injury or death.