

# INSPECTING YOUR LADDER



The Work at Height Regulations 2005 requires all equipment to be inspected at regular intervals by a competent and trained person. However, it is also vital that all equipment is visually inspected before every use to make sure that it is safe to use there and then.

An inspection should be carried out by the user at the beginning of the working day, or after something has changed such as a ladder has been dropped, left unattended for a period of time, transported on a vehicle or moved from a dirty area to a clean area of the worksite.

**STEPPING UP  
LADDER  
SAFETY** 

BE SAFE EVERY  
STEP OF THE WAY



# What to look out for when carrying out a safety check:

## CHECK THE STEPLADDER PLATFORM

When it comes to stepladders, it is important to ensure that the platform is in a suitable, safe working condition and locks securely to the rear bar when open. Make sure all fittings are present and undamaged and that there is no bending, folding or twisting on the upper surface of the platform.

## STILES

The stiles should be checked to ensure there is no bending, longitudinal twisting or bowing. Make sure the ladder is generally rigid. The front to rear frame attachment or hinging should be secure and all rivets and fixings should be present.



## RUNGS/TREADS

Make sure none are missing, loose bent, excessively worn, corroded or damaged. It is also important to check that all fixings are secure. If there is any significant denting, the strength of the tread may be compromised, and the ladder should be replaced immediately.

## FEET

It is important that the feet tips are all present and secure. The feet should not be warped in any way and the anti-slip ground contact surfaces should be undamaged and free and clear of debris and dirt.

## BRACES AND CROSS TUBES

Whilst some wear and tear is acceptable, anything that shows signs of pronounced or excessive bending, bowing or creasing will need to be addressed immediately. Additionally, there should be no twisting of the braces or cross tubes.

## LOCKING MECHANISMS

If they are bent or the fixings are worn or damaged the ladder could collapse. Make sure you engage any locking bars.

If you spot any of the above defects during your pre-use check then **DO NOT** use the ladder and inform your employer.

In addition to the steps above, there are also recommended checks that you should carry out in the user instructions, particularly for additional features on specific ladder types, such as telescopic or multi-hinge joint ladders. Therefore, it is vital to keep a copy of the manufacturer's user instructions close to hand to refer to if you are unsure what you should be looking for.

For more detailed information, please take a look at our [ladder inspection guide](#).