

# AN EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO LADDERS



Despite the many myths, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has never banned the use of ladders at work.



When it comes to working at height, employers and those in control of any work at height activity must first assess the risks and ensure that work is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people. This includes using the right type of equipment.

When used correctly, ladders are a sensible and practical option for low-risk, short-duration tasks. The HSE recommends that the right access equipment is used for the job at hand and that the user is trained in its use and when to know what product to use safely.

This is the best way to minimise the risk of injury to employees and maximise job efficiency.

# REDUCE THE RISK, IS A LADDER RIGHT?

- Has a risk assessment shown that using a ladder is the best option for the task at hand?
- There are FOUR key elements of ladder selection, these will ensure that you always have the right ladder for the job:
  1. **Height:** When selecting the ladder for the job, you need to consider the height that you will be working at and the height that you can safely reach to. We recommend always choosing a ladder slightly higher than you might need to avoid overreaching and follow the instructions on the ladder for safe use.
  2. **Applications:** Always take care to choose the correct standard of ladder for the job in hand. Werner ladders meet the EN131 standard, where applicable, with ladders having a load capacity of 150kg.
  3. **Materials:** When it comes to ladders the choice of MATERIAL MATTERS. Usually, the first decision when it comes to buying a ladder is which material to choose.



**Max. Load**  
Load includes user,  
tools, materials, etc.



4. **Unique Product Solution:** Discover styles designed to keep you safe. Are you comfortable on traditional ladders? Is storage and transportation a concern? Will you be working on uneven ground?
- Now you've chosen the right ladder, you need to ensure that you have had training on how to use the ladder correctly.
  - As a guide, if your task requires staying up a leaning ladder or stepladder for more than 30 minutes at a time, it is recommended that you consider alternative equipment.
  - Only use ladders in situations where they can be used safely, for example where the ladder will be level and stable and, where possible, secured.
  - Only use a ladder if you can always maintain three points of contact, if you can't, choose a more suitable type of equipment.

To find out more about choosing the right ladder for the job and making sure you're using it safely, [visit our website](#).