

PLATFORM STEP LADDERS

A platform ladder is a self-supporting portable step ladder with a platform provided at the highest intended standing level. The platform provides an area to stand on while working that can be a bit more comfortable than just standing on the step of a ladder.

Some (but not all!) platform ladders can be used by two workers at the same time.

- Before assuming two people can climb the same ladder, refer to the manufacturer's user manual and the warning labels on the ladder to understand the weight limits and safety guidelines.

While they may seem safer than a traditional step ladder, if platform ladders are not used correctly, they can still lead to serious injuries.

- Read and follow all the instructions provided with the ladder as well as the warnings on the ladder.



Werner Platform Ladder

Ladder use safety tips that apply to all portable ladders, including platform ladders:

- All workers using a ladder must face the ladder when climbing up and down and maintain 3-point contact (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand). Use at least one hand to grasp the ladder when climbing.
- Maintain good housekeeping in the areas near ladders in use.
- Never climb from one ladder to another ladder.
- Never attempt to move the ladder without first descending, relocating the ladder, and then re-climbing. Do not *walk* or *shift* a ladder while you are standing on it.
- Do not leave tools, materials, or equipment on a platform ladder when it is not in use. It is very easy to forget about these items and then, when the ladder is shifted, the tools can quickly become falling object hazards.
- When it is necessary to set up a ladder in an area like a passageway, doorway, or driveway, the ladder should be secured, and the area should be barricaded to keep traffic and pedestrians away from the ladder to avoid displacement.

Discussion

Image: Werner/wernerco.com

How do you know a ladder's maximum load rating?

During a ladder inspection what are you looking for to make sure the ladder is safe to use?