

# LEANING LADDER GUIDE

Every month, more than a thousand people need hospital treatment because of accidents at home involving stepladders...

..ABOVE ALL BE CAREFUL

## BEFORE USE

- Read all instructions on and accompanying the ladder
- Check the maximum load indicated on the ladder  
BS 2037 Class 1 Duty Rating: 130kg (20st) Max Vertical Static Load: 175kg (27.5st)  
EN131 Duty Rating: 115kg (18st) Max Vertical Static Load: 150kg (23.6st)  
BS 2037 Class 3 Duty Rating: 95kg (15st) Max Vertical Static Load: 125kg (19.7st)
- Ensure that you are fit enough to use a ladder. Certain medical conditions or medications, alcohol or drug abuse could make ladder use unsafe
- Ensure the ladder is suitable for the task
- Visually check the ladder is not damaged and is safe to use at the start of each working day when the ladder is to be used
- Remove any contamination from the ladder, such as wet paint, mud, oil or snow
- When transporting ladders on roof bars or in a truck, ensure they are suitably placed to prevent damage
- Inspect the ladder after delivery and before first use to confirm condition and operation of all parts
- Before using a ladder at work a risk assessment should be carried out respecting the legislation in the country of use
- For professional users regular periodic inspection is required
- Do not use a damaged ladder

## POSITIONING AND ERECTING THE LADDER

- When positioning the ladder take into account risk of collision with the ladder e.g. from pedestrians, vehicles or doors. Secure doors (not fire exits) and windows where possible in the work area
- Identify any electrical risks in the work area, such as overhead lines or other exposed electrical equipment
- Ladders shall not be positioned on slippery surfaces (such as ice, shiny surfaces or significantly contaminated surfaces) unless additional effective measures are taken to prevent the ladder slipping or ensuring contaminated surfaces are sufficiently clean
- Leaning ladder should lean against a flat non-fragile surface and should be secured before use, e.g. tied or use of a suitable stability device
- Ladder shall be erected at the correct position and angle (inclination approximately 1:4) with rungs or treads level
- Locking devices, if fitted, shall be fully secured before use
- Ladder shall be stood on its feet, not the rungs or steps
- Ladder shall never be repositioned from above
- Ladder shall be on an even, level and unmoveable base

## USING THE LADDER

- Do not exceed the maximum total load for the type of ladder
- Do not overreach, users should keep their belt buckle (navel) inside the stiles and both feet on the same step/rung throughout the task
- Maintain a handhold whilst working from a ladder or take additional safety precautions if you cannot
- Avoid excessive side loadings e.g. drilling brick and concrete
- Keep a secure grip on the ladder when ascending and descending
- Face the ladder when ascending and descending
- Wear suitable footwear when climbing a ladder
- Do not step off a leaning ladder at a higher level without additional security, such as tying off or use of a suitable stability device
- Leaning ladders used for access to a higher level should be extended at least 1.1m above the landing point
- Do not stand on the top three steps/rungs of a leaning ladder
- Ladders should only be used for light work of short duration
- Use non-conductive ladders for unavoidable live electrical work
- Do not use the ladder outside in adverse weather conditions, such as strong wind
- Take precautions against children playing on the ladder
- Secure doors (not fire exits) and windows where possible in the work area
- Do not use the ladder as a bridge
- Do not spend long periods on a ladder without regular breaks (tiredness is a risk)
- Equipment carried while using a ladder should be light and easy to handle

## WORK THE SAFE WAY

### THE RIGHT WAY

Use ladder correct way up ✓

Right height for the job – no overreaching ✓

Good grip ✓

Correct Flat shoes ✓

Clean rungs ✓

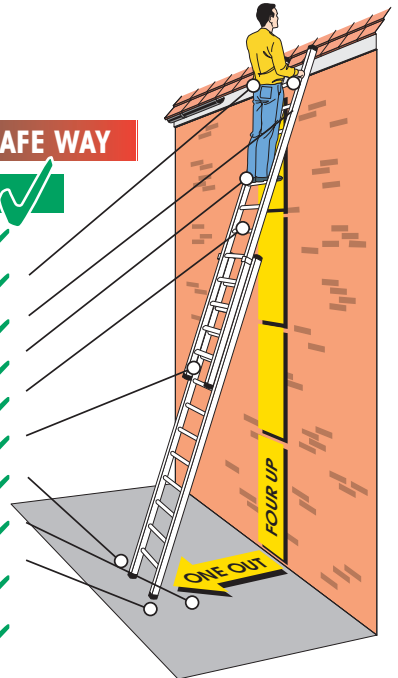
Ladder in good condition ✓

Two non-slip feet in good condition ✓

Ladder at correct angle 65-75 degrees ✓

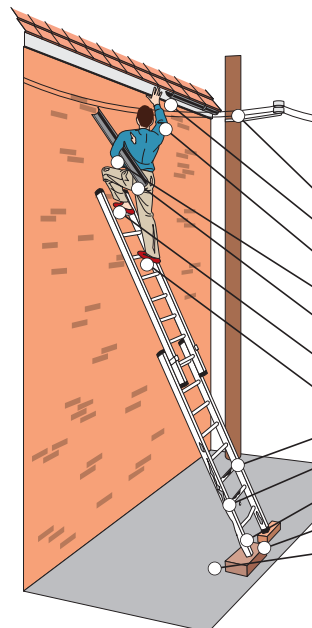
Firm, level and unmoveable base ✓

Ensure ground is free from contaminants ✓



### THE WRONG WAY

- ✗ Do not step off side of ladder
- ✗ Electrical hazard
- ✗ Overhead hazard
- ✗ Wrong height for the job – do not overreach
- ✗ Not holding on – only 2 points of contact
- ✗ Overloaded with material
- ✗ Standing on top 3 rungs
- ✗ Slippers – incorrect footwear
- ✗ Mud on rungs
- ✗ Damaged ladder
- ✗ Foot missing or damaged
- ✗ Unstable surface
- ✗ Base too far from wall



## REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

- Repairs and maintenance shall be carried out by a competent person and be in accordance with the producer's instructions
- Ladders should be stored in accordance with the producer's instructions



Replacement spare parts are available to order online at [www.abru.co.uk](http://www.abru.co.uk) or over the phone on **01773 525762**

For details of product inspections and pass/fail criteria log onto [www.abru.co.uk](http://www.abru.co.uk) or contact us directly.

Abu Ltd, Derwentside Industrial Park, Derby Road, Belper, DE56 1WE Tel: 01773 525700 Email: [info@abru.co.uk](mailto:info@abru.co.uk)