



Environmental Health Safety & Risk Management
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Ladder Safety – Online (00020368, 1.0)

Glossary

Terminology	Description
Duty Rating	Also called “weight-bearing capability”, duty rating is the ladder’s maximum supportable load. It includes the person on the ladder and any tools and materials that person carries or places on the material rest. Manufacturers include the duty rating on the ladder’s label.
Fixed Ladder	A fixed ladder is permanently attached to a building, structure or other equipment. Rungs can be individual and anchored to the structure. Or they can be attached to side rails, which are anchored to the structure.
Material Rest	A material rest is a small platform that folds out between the legs of stepladder. Workers use the material rest for light tools or supplies.
Portable Ladder	A portable ladder can be transported from place to place. Portable ladders may be self-supporting or no self-supporting. Stepladders are an example of self-supporting, portable ladders. Straight or extension ladders are examples of ladders that are not self-self-supporting.
Spreader	A spreader or locking device is a hinged brace between two sides of a stepladder. When fully opened the spreader locks into place and provides more stability for the ladder.