Scaffolding

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Scaffolding may be tubular, suspended or rolling. Tubular metal is the most common type of scaffolding, as it is readily available, versatile, adaptable and economical. Scaffolds are classified according to use as light, medium and heavy, with the maximum loads of 25, 50 and 75 pounds per square foot, respectively.

General

- Components from different manufacturers should not be interchanged.
- Footing or anchorage must be sound, rigid and capable of carrying maximum intended load.
- All open sides and the ends of platforms must have guardrails, mid-rails and toe boards installed more than 10 feet above the ground.
- An access ladder or equivalent safe access must be provided.
- Guardrails must be approximately 42 inches high and made of 2 × 4 lumber or equivalent.
- The mid-rail must be of 1 × 6 lumber or equivalent.
- Toe boards must be a minimum of four inches in height.
- Where people must work under or pass under the scaffold, a mesh screen shall be installed between the toe board and the guardrail.
- Damaged or weakened parts of the scaffolding must be replaced immediately.
- Planking shall be scaffold-grade or equivalent.
- All platform planking shall be overlapped a minimum of 12 inches.
- Uprights, poles or legs must be plumb and rigidly braced to prevent swaying and displacement.
- Shore or lean-to scaffolds are prohibited.

Tubular Metal Scaffolds

When using tubular metal scaffolds, tube and clamp scaffolding, and tubular welded frame scaffolds, always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

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Wooden Scaffolding Regulations

- Set as near to the building wall as possible.
- Tie scaffold to the structure when the height exceeds four times the minimum base dimension. 26 feet maximum tie off intervals.
- Ledgers must be extended over two pole spaces and cannot be spliced between poles. Reinforced by bearing blocks nailed securely to the side of the pole.
- Diagonal bracing shall be provided to prevent moving.
- Cross bracing shall be provided independent pole scaffolds.
- Overlap must be at least 12 inches where planks lap.
- Conspicuously post scaffolding safety rules.

Mobile Scaffolds

- Do not ride rolling scaffolds.
- Before moving the scaffolding, remove or secure all material and equipment.
- When scaffolding is not being moved, apply caster brakes.
- Attach casters with plain stems to the panel or adjustment screw by pins or other suitable means.
- Do not extend adjusting screws more than 12 inches.
- Do not use brackets on rolling scaffolds.
- Working platform heights must not exceed 4 times the smallest base dimension, unless guyed or stabilized.

Suspended Scaffolds

- Raise the platform about 12 inches and have the workers stand in the middle, before use.
- With each use inspect the raising and lowering mechanism, wire rope condition and tie off points.
- Light duty scaffolds are designed for use with personnel and hand tools; with a minimum amount of material. Screening may be needed between the toe board and top rail.
- Keep four turns of wire rope on the drums at all times.
- Protect wire rope from heat, corrosive or weld current arc exposures.
- A safety harness and lanyard shall secure each person working on the scaffolding attached by separate line extending from the roof to the ground.