

# SAFELY WORKING WITH LADDERS

Before a ladder is used for a specific project, make certain it is appropriate for the task at hand and is in good repair, and that the person handling the ladder is properly trained. Most ladder accidents can be avoided by following these simple steps:



## CHOOSE THE RIGHT LADDER

- Use a ladder that is long enough but not too long.
- Don't use orchard ladders for other purposes.
- Don't use metal ladders for electrical work or around electrical installations.



## CHECK ITS CONDITION

- Destroy ladders with cracks, splits, and breaks.
- Don't use makeshift or patched ladders.
- Make sure the ladder is rigid and will stand firmly.
- Wear good shoes for solid footing.
- Install "safety feet" on ladders for additional protection.



## USE IT SAFELY

- Carry ladder properly and watch out for other people.
- Place ladder firmly and carefully on surface.
- Incline ladder on a four to one ratio of height to base.
- Don't lean or over-reach. Keep both feet on the ladder.
- Never climb above the second rung from the top.
- Never jump down from a ladder.
- Face ladder when going up or down.
- Keep ladders away from power lines.
- Keep rungs clean.
- Use rope for raising or lowering tools, equipment, and supplies.



## TAKE CARE OF IT

- Store wooden ladders under cover, preferably in an up-right position.
- If stored horizontally, provide adequate support to prevent sagging.
- Don't drop ladders.
- Don't paint wooden ladders—you may cover up defects.
- Use oil or clear varnish for protective finish.