

# What's wrong with this photo?



When you're committed to workplace injury prevention, a picture is worth a thousand words. In fact, depending on the intended message, a photo can speak volumes about how to work safely — or unsafely.

As part of our responsibility to demonstrate safe work practices, we scrutinize every photo we publish. Based on feedback we receive from readers, we know you're equally vigilant. We regularly get comments pointing out a potential hazard that's been overlooked in one of our photos, so, once again, we've decided to give you the chance to share your expertise — for everyone's benefit.

The photo above has been deliberately staged to display dangerous work habits. We're inviting you — as dedicated employers, employees, and health and safety professionals — to tell us how many hazards you spot. Email your responses to [wwtp@worksafebc.com](mailto:wwtp@worksafebc.com) by October 12, 2018. And, if you'd like to try the online version, go to [worksafemagazine.com](http://worksafemagazine.com), and click on "What's wrong with this photo." Please include your full name, work title, workplace, and workplace location.

We'll publish our top response, and provide our own answers. Ultimately, we hope this exercise reminds you to use the same laser-eyed precision in creating your own injury-free workspaces.



# Improper ladder use a frequent source of injury



WorksafeBC occupational hygiene officer Kimiko Banati helped set up this photo of unsafe ladder use. Here's what was wrong:

**The worker**

- The worker is not wearing safety boots.
- The worker is using a light duty ladder on a construction site.
- The Tyvek suit is only on the bottom part of the worker's body. It is not being worn properly.
- The worker appears to be stepping towards the second ladder without coming off of the first one.

- The reach pole would be more appropriate for reaching high up spots than the step ladder.

**The worksite**

- There are unlabeled solvent and paint containers.
- The paint tray is positioned directly behind the ladder. This is a trip hazard.
- There is a paint can sitting on top of the ladder instead of on a pail shelf.
- There are electrical cords under and behind the ladder.
- The yellow ladder does not have the spreader locked in.
- There is a beverage container in the work area.

Contest winner



**Rob Giroux**, worker safety representative at Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Corp, is the winner of the July/August "What's wrong with this photo?" contest. Here's what he identified:

**The worker**

- The loose and hanging clothing could get caught up in things like the tools and ladder.
- The worker has improper footwear. It could slip off her feet, be slippery on the ladder steps, and does not provide protection for falling objects.
- The worker is leaning too far over.
- The worker is not using the steps properly. She is resting her foot on the rail, not the step.

**The worksite**

- There is a tripping hazard from the electrical cord dragging through the work area. Also someone could yank it and tip over the paint tray (more slipping around) or topple the worker from the step ladder.

- It doesn't look like this is an appropriate ladder to be using.
- There is an object under the ladder. The worker could step on it when dismounting.
- The jug should not be near the ladder as it also causes a tripping hazard.
- The two leaning poles are tripping hazards.
- Ladders must be fully extended and locked into place.
- There is no warning signage to other occupants of the area to state work is underway.
- The paint tray is located too close to the painter's exit path from the ladder. She could step right into it causing a fall.
- The two ladders are too far apart and inappropriate for use as a paint holder and the other as a height increaser. A ladder with a tray designed to hold the paint supplies is needed for this job.
- The worker should not stick the brush all the way into the bucket — paint will get all over the floor creating a slipping hazard if you don't keep a reasonably clean the brush and/or roller. ☹️

## Did you know?

Falls are a leading cause of injuries to construction workers in B.C.