



## Supervisor responsibilities

As a supervisor, you play a key role in making sure the workers under your supervision use ladders safely. Here are some of the things you must do.

### Make sure suitable equipment is provided

Ladders may be suitable for

- Accessing work areas, such as a roof, mezzanine, or scaffolding
- Minor maintenance tasks such as caulking, touch-up painting, inspection of gutters, or other light-duty tasks that take no more than 15 minutes to complete

When workers are using ladders on the job, make sure that the ladders

- Are in good condition
- Are strong and tall enough to allow workers to complete their work safely
- Meet a standard acceptable to WorkSafeBC, such as CSA or ANSI

If you don't think ladders are the most suitable equipment for the job, let your employer know that a safer alternative, such as a work platform, stairs, or a ramp, might be needed.

### Make sure workers are trained

- Participate in ladder safety training.
- Provide safety orientations and on-the-job training, as directed by your employer.

### Make sure workers set up and use ladders safely

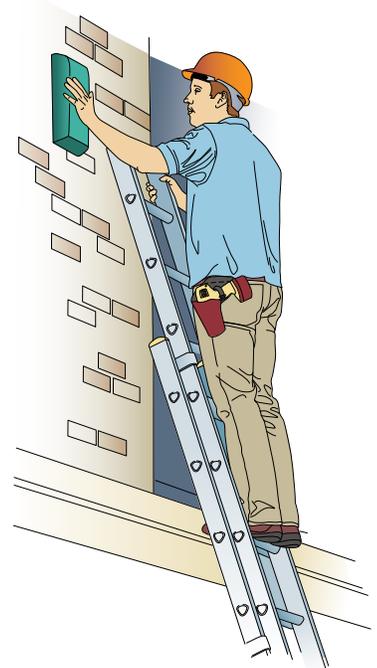
When supervising workers, watch for these key ladder safety requirements.

- Ladders must be inspected before use. Damaged or bent ladders must be taken out of service.
- Ladders must be placed on a firm and level surface and set up so that they are stable and secure.
- Straight or extension ladders must be set up at the required angle, using the 4-to-1 Rule: For every 4 feet (1.2 metres) up, workers must place the base of their ladder 1 foot (0.3 metres) from the wall or upper support it rests against.
- Workers must maintain three-point contact when climbing any ladder and when working from a straight or extension ladder.
- Workers must keep their bodies centred between the side rails.
- Workers must step or stand no higher than the step or rung specified on the manufacturer's label.

### Address safety issues

Make sure workers know that they should inform you or their employer about their ladder safety concerns or questions. Take appropriate actions to address safety issues brought to your attention.

For more information, see WorkSafeBC's Ladder Safety Series on WorkSafeBC.com.



*Supervisors need to make sure workers maintain three-point contact — one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot — when working from a straight or extension ladder.*