

According to NIOSH, each year in the U.S., more than 500,000 people are treated and about 300 people die from ladder-related injuries.

The inspection of a ladder is a very important step to avoid serious or even deadly injuries. Regardless if the ladder is fixed, or portable, OSHA requires that employers ensure ladders are inspected regularly. However, even with periodic inspections it is still part of every worker's job to be sure that the ladder they are about to use is in safe working order.

OSHA Standard 1910.27(f) *All ladders shall be maintained in a safe condition. All ladders shall be inspected regularly, with the intervals between inspections being determined by use and exposure.*



Extension ladder missing foot pads and foot assembly. This appears to be the top portion of an extension ladder that has been taken apart.



*Paint and grime covering the labels and steps of this ladder. It should be removed from service and cleaned to avoid a potential safety hazard. (*8)*

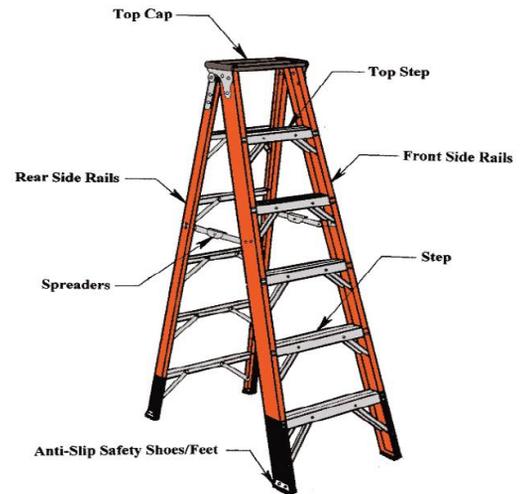


*Manufacturer's safety labels and warnings on the ladder. Ladder inspections should include making sure that labels are readable and haven't been painted over or damaged. (*1)*

OSHA Standard 1910.23(b)(10) *Any ladder with structural or other defects is immediately tagged "Dangerous: Do Not Use" or with similar language.*

LADDER INSPECTIONS PREVENT INJURIES!

- Always visually inspect ladder feet to ensure that foot pads and feet assembly are present and in safe condition.
- Never attempt to repair a ladder! Contact the manufacturer or other qualified person to make the repair.
- Inspect top cap, steps, side rails, & locking braces on a step ladder before using.
- Inspect the rungs, rails, lock (daws), rope, and pulley assembly of an extension ladder and be sure that all parts work properly.
- Check for mud, grease, or dirt to avoid potential slip/fall hazards.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for proper inspection and use.
- Remove any ladder from service that is found to be defective!



OSHA Fact Sheet #3662. (*3)

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