

Proper Angle and Setup

Introduction

A leaning ladder can slide or tip when its angle or support is wrong. Take time to choose a safe location and verify the setup before climbing.

Hazards & Controls

For manufactured non-self-supporting ladders, place the foot about one-quarter of the working length away from the top support (the 4-to-1 setup rule). This does not describe stepladder setup.

Support both rails equally unless using an approved single-support attachment. Use stable footing, secure against slipping, and protect the ladder from doors, vehicles, and pedestrian traffic. Never level with loose bricks or boxes.

Stay within the equipment rating, including people, tools, and materials. Stop work if the setup or conditions change; have concerns corrected before continuing.

Safety Reminders

Inspect before use, keep the work area clear, and follow the equipment instructions and site safety plan. Keep electrical hazards in the pre-task review; obtain the required clearance or isolation before setup.

Engagement Questions

If the working length is 16 feet, approximately how far out should the base be?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Construction Ladders (29 CFR 1926.1053)

OSHA: Portable Ladder Safety QuickCard

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Meeting Record & Sign-In

Proper Angle and Setup

Company: _____ Date: _____

Jobsite: _____ Presenter: _____

Time / duration: _____ Crew / shift: _____

Site-specific hazards and controls discussed

	Printed name	Signature
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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date