

Tool Box Talk



System Scaffold

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System Scaffold can be described as versatile easy-to-use temporary work platforms.

There are many systems now available, ranging from light duty aluminum access towers to heavy-duty steel support structures. They all employ different patented locking devices (wedges, locking pins etc.) and are designed to different specifications, which makes it difficult and sometimes dangerous to interchange one system with another. However, the majority of systems are made from standard diameter 48mm (1 5/8 inch) tubes, so that they can be used with standard scaffold clamps. This allows for tube and clamp to be incorporated into the system.

System Scaffold is built with a variety of components such as base jacks, base collars, ledgers, braces, standards, decks/planks, ladders, guardrails and toe boards. Users should pay strict attention to loading and methods of erection published in the manufacturer's instructions. There is no national or common specification for system scaffolds. Consequently, care should be taken not to mix different systems.

Inspection of Components

The three main concerns during an inspection are for rust, straightness of members and welds. This applies to all components of a scaffolding system:

RUST - Heavily rusted scaffolding equipment is a telltale sign of neglect and the oxidation process that takes place as rusting weakens the components

STRAIGHTNESS OF MEMBERS – Mishandling, transporting and storing may cause damage to scaffolding equipment. All members or parts of steel scaffolding components should be straight and free from bends, kinks or dents.

WELDS – Equipment should be checked before use for damaged welds. Any piece of equipment showing damaged welds or re-welding beyond the original factory weld should not be used until it has been established that the welding conforms to the original standards.

Foundation Considerations

The purpose of a good foundation or mud sill is to distribute the scaffolding load over a suitable ground area. The size of the footing or sill is determined by the total load carried over a particular ground area, and by the nature of the soil supporting these sills. The total load should be calculated and the sills designed accordingly. It is important to never interchange the scaffold planks with the mud sills.

Scaffold Safety Do's:

- ✘ Be mindful of coworkers working above and below you at all times, as well as others working on the scaffold.
- ✘ When personal fall arrest systems are required for the scaffold you will be working on, thoroughly inspect the equipment for damage and wear.
- ✘ Get properly trained before using a scaffold.
- ✘ Ensure scaffolds are built by trained workers under the supervision of a competent person
- ✘ Use 3-point climbing

Scaffold Safety Don'ts:

- ✘ Leave tools on the scaffold at the end of your shift.
- ✘ Overload the scaffold.
- ✘ Use boxes or ladders to increase your work height.
- ✘ Use the scaffold if it appears to be damaged in any way, has been tampered with or if there are components missing such as planking, guardrails or toeboards
- ✘ Walk on scaffold planking covered in ice, snow or mud.
- ✘ Climb on any portion of the scaffold frame not intended for climbing.

Acknowledgement:

<https://www.constructconnect.com/blog/construction-safety/the-dos-donts-of-scaffold-safety-in-construction/>



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