



Stair Scaffolding

Stair Scaffolding is an effective way to move people, tools, and material to an elevated work surface. Ladders can be used to access elevated work areas but only allow for 1 person at a time and requires both hands to properly use a ladder. Stair scaffolding on the other hand has guard rail acting as fall protection and provides easy access and egress to and from the elevated work space for multiple people. This is why for larger jobs or jobs with a longer duration stair scaffolding is the preferred method as opposed to sustained extension ladder use.

Stair Scaffold is still considered scaffolding and must be inspected periodically including:

- All scaffolds plumbed and leveled as erection proceeds
- Are adequate sills and base plates being use
- If electrical power lines are near the scaffold, are necessary precautions being taken
- Do scaffold planks extend past their end supports not less than 6 inches and no more than 12 inches
- Are guardrails and end rails in place
- To protect from falling objects, are toe boards or area barricaded below
- Are frames and panels braced by cross, horizontal or diagonal braces / all pins in place
- Are scaffolds with a (4:1) base to height ratio
- Are scaffolds securely anchored at least every 25 feet in height
- The first step can not be more than 24 inches from the ground level
- Landing platforms shall be at least 18x18 inches
- Is the scaffold within its weight capacity
- Tagging system is in place (RED and GREEN tags) on all scaffolding systems on site.



Discussion Questions:

- Why is stair scaffolding often preferred over ladders on longer-duration jobs?
- What tasks on our current site make stair scaffolding the better option?
- What could happen if base plates or sills aren't adequate?