

# gbsca SAFETY TOOLBOX TALKS



## Ladder Duty Ratings

Ladders account for nearly 20% of fall injuries in the workplace, according to the CDC, making them one of the most dangerous items on the work site. Knowing the limits of a ladder is a first step to using a ladder correctly. Consider a ladder's **Duty Rating**, which indicates the maximum weight capacity the ladder can safely carry.

**To calculate the total weight that your ladder will be supporting, add the following together:**

1. Your weight; **plus**
2. The weight of your clothing and protective equipment; **plus**
3. The weight of tools and supplies you are carrying; **plus**
4. The weight of tools and supplies used on the ladder.

**The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has five categories of Ladder Duty Ratings**

DUTY TYPE	CAPACITY	COLOR (typically)
Type III (Light Duty)	200 pounds	RED
Type II (Medium Duty)	225 pounds	GREEN
Type I (Heavy Duty)	250 pounds	BLUE
Type IA (Extra Heavy Duty)	300 pounds	ORANGE
Type IAA (Extra Heavy Duty)	375 pounds	YELLOW

**ALWAYS READ THE MANUFACTURER'S LABEL.** Not all manufacturers use ANSI's color coded system on their labels. If you can't read the label, do not use the ladder: KNOW the limitations, do not guess.

Ladder accidents are preventable. Always inspect ladders before use. Report faulty ladders to supervisors and remove them from the jobsite.