



GBCA SAFETY TOOLBOX TALK

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.

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.

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