

PestSure Safety

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

Extension Ladder Setup

There are several types of ladders in use in our industry. Extension and step ladders are what we see and use most of the time. No matter what the type, ladders in disrepair with broken or missing rungs, damaged side rails, defective construction or the wrong size for the job, should not be used. Let's review some important points when setting up extension ladders.

Prior to using an extension ladder, pick the spot you will set the ladder by visually inspecting the area of access. Look for window ledges, air conditioners, entranceways, level terrain and landscaping making sure nothing will compromise safely climbing, descending or moving the ladder.

Lay the ladder flat and against the building wall. If a wall is not available, or if it is inaccessible, a second person can place his foot on the bottom rung of the ladder and his other foot on one of the ladder feet.



Next, lift the ladder from the top while pushing forward to maintain pressure against the wall. Lift with your legs and make sure the ladder weight is not excessive or beyond your capability to lift it safely. Lift the ladder overhead hand over hand pushing ladder towards the building extending the ladder to your highest point of reach.

Note: When you reach beyond the middle point of setting up your extension ladder, or lift past the middle rung, an increasing force of ladder weight will be working against your lift. The ladder will start to feel top heavy but continue to lift ladder while increasing pressure against the wall. Continue until you are able to rest the ladder against the building. Move the ladder slightly by lifting the ladder base with both arms and move ladder slowly and slightly away from building.

With the ladder now upright, extend the ladder to the desired height using the ladder rope and pulley system or the designed extension system. Keep one foot on the bottom rung to steady the ladder as you extend. The ladder must be close to vertical in position for balance. Once the ladder is extended to the correct working height, carefully rest the top of ladder against the building. To take down ladder, follow this guide in reverse.

Extra Precautions:

Do not attempt to set an extension ladder when wind or other weather conditions make it unsafe. Keep at least 10 feet between the ladder and any electrical lines at all times.