



# Safety Tips

A five minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.



## SAFE LADDER PLACEMENT

Falls from ladders continue to cause employee injuries. Recently, a technician was working on a ladder next to a vehicle garage entrance. The driver of the vehicle did not see the ladder and when driving through the exit, knocked the ladder out from under the technician, causing serious injury.

Ladder placement has a great deal to do with causing technicians to fall. Some of our serious employee injuries are the result of improper ladder placement or lack of proper warning devices to prevent the ladder from being knocked out from under the employee.

When using a ladder, regardless of whether it is a stepladder or extension ladder, follow these recommendations.

- Inspect your ladder daily to make sure it is in good working order. Look for:
  - No broken rungs.
  - Ladder feet in good condition (have teeth to bite into the ground and adequate rubber tread to prevent the ladder from slipping on smooth surfaces).
  - Locking devices work (vertical locks on step ladders and rung locks on extension ladders).
  - No cracks or breaks in the vertical rung supports.
- The ladder is placed on solid level ground or surface.
- The ladder base is out one foot for every four feet in height.
- If the ladder is placed in a pedestrian traffic area, place safety cones or other warning device(s) to prevent any pedestrians from walking into or pushing carts into the ladder.
- If the ladder is placed in a vehicle traffic area (street, parking lot or garage entrance/exits) block your ladder with your vehicle, if possible. If not possible, utilize warning devices such as large cones or other warning devices to prevent a vehicle from striking your ladder. A person's view of your ladder can be obstructed by sunlight, other vehicles, pedestrians, their own distractions, etc.

**DO NOT PLACE A LADDER WHERE SOMEONE  
OR SOMETHING ELSE CAN RUN INTO IT!**