

Working at Height

Working at height can be a high-risk activity with the possibility of serious injury. Therefore, it is important that any activities that involve working at height are planned, managed and carried out safely.

Wherever possible working at height should be **avoided**. This can be achieved by carrying out tasks at a ground level instead.

For example, painting or installing graphics before the stand element is lifted into place. Painting using a long pole is another example where working at height can be avoided.

Where working at height cannot be avoided, then the time required to work at height should be **reduced** as much as possible.

For example, fitting lighting and wiring at ground level and then only working at height to make the final connections.

When working at height it is important to have the **correct equipment** for the tasks. This should be planned appropriately during the design process and briefed to the workers to ensure the correct equipment is taken onsite with them.

Ladders are appropriate for just 1 worker and for lower height and shorter tasks. Workers should not stand on the top rung/ step of the ladder.

Scaffold towers are better for tasks which will take a longer time and may need 2 workers working together.

Scissor lifts (electric mobile elevation platforms) are best for tasks that require a lot of moving up and down.

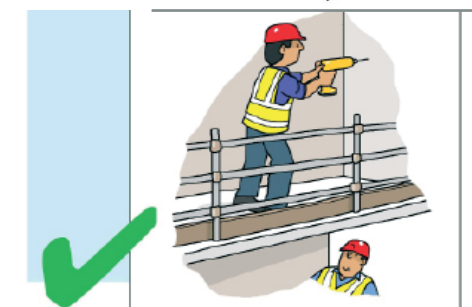
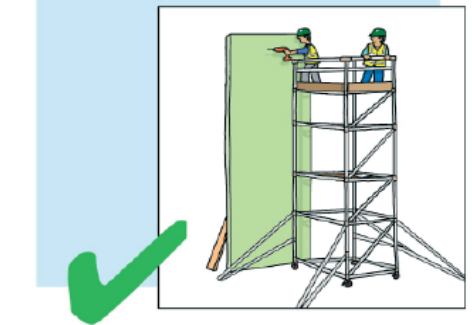
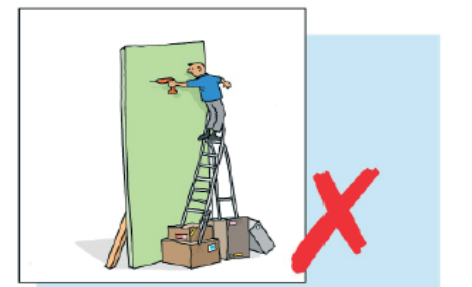
Equipment must be **checked** before it's used to make sure that it is not damaged. Scaffold towers must be correctly constructed, including cross bracing supports and handrails around the working platform.

Equipment should be placed on a level surface and obstructions around the equipment removed.

Workers must be **trained/ briefed** on how to use the equipment correctly for they start using it.

Working below any working at height must be avoided and the area below controlled. Workers in the area must wear appropriate **hard hat head protection**.

For 2 storey/ double deck stands temporary handrails should be installed around the edge of the upper deck (also known as a live edge) to prevent the risk of falling. Workers may also be required to wear harnesses, but that requires appropriate anchor points and the correct training for the use of harnesses



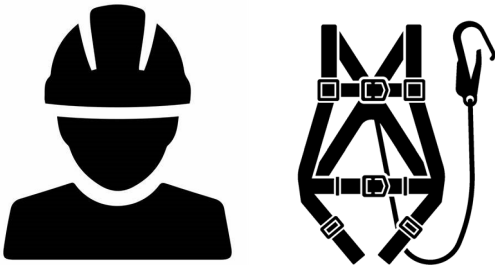
Live Edge Working

While working on a platform over 1.2m/ 4 foot in height which does not have any barriers or protection around the edge this is called working on a live edge or a leading edge.

Falling from a height of 1.2m/ 4 foot can lead to a significant injury.

As with working at height on a ladder it is recommended to avoid the need for working on live edges or unprotected platforms, reduce the amount of time required to be in that space and ensure that there are appropriate control measures or hazard mitigations in place to prevent any falls.

- ✓ Install barriers around a live edge to remove the hazardous situation.
- ✓ Design and plan/ schedule the stand to reduce the hazard of live edges.
- ✓ Install elements, such as the barrier protection before a platform is raised to remove the requirement or length of time needed to work on a live edge.
- ✓ Install protection to prevent items rolling and falling off the edges.
- ✓ Review with the workers the hazards and risks involved to raise awareness and understanding of the safety control measures in place.
- ✓ Have appropriate personal protective equipment available for workers to use, such as hard hats and fall arrest harnesses. Ensure that workers are trained to use this equipment correctly.





Work at Height Safely

AVOID the need to work at height

REDUCE the amount of time needed working at height

CHECK that equipment is appropriate for the task, safe to use and being used correctly