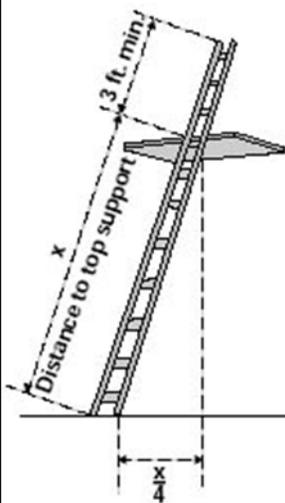


# Safe Ladder Set-Up Before You Start the Job

## Ladders Part 3

“...a facility that is operating well from a safety standpoint is likely to be excelling at quality, service and operating cost.” - Mike Thaman, Chairman and CEO of Owens Corning

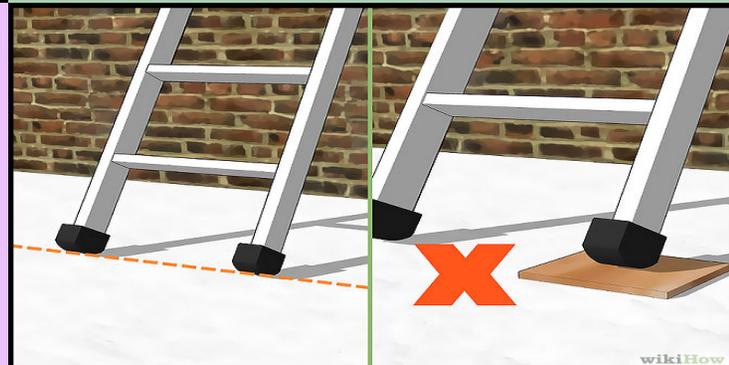


- A ladder used to access an elevated surface should extend at least 3 feet above the point of support.
- In this type of set-up, the ladder should be tied off at the point of support
- Place the base of this type of ladder a quarter of the working length from the wall or vertical surface as shown in the diagram to the left
- The resulting angle between the ladder and the ground is 75.5°

### General Points

- Place ladders on a stable and level surface
- Do not place a ladder on boxes, barrels, or other unstable bases for additional height
- A ladder placed in a location where it could be jostled by other work activities should be secured or barricaded from traffic
- Make sure you know how to correctly operate the mechanical mechanisms of various ladders before use; such as the locking mechanism of an extension ladder.
- Use 2 people to handle long ladders

- Do not try the set-up shown in the diagram above to reach the lower portions of the wall by overreaching or setting the ladder too close to the wall; you'll risk the ladder sliding out or tipping. Instead, use a shorter stepladder to do the job
- Do not use a stepladder as a single ladder in a closed or partially closed position
- Consider securing the base of any ladder for added protection



Becca Bunker  
July 2014

Sources:  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration. United States Department of Labor.  
laddersafety.org. American Ladder Institute. 2011.