

SAFETY ALERT

November 14, 2022

Step Ladder Safety

A step ladder is a small portable ladder with flat steps that is self supporting and foldable. This type of step ladder should be used for reaching equipment, shelves and cabinets in ETA laboratory areas. *The round footstools should not be used in lab areas since these do not provide adequate foot support and are not always stable.*



In order to safely use step ladders, users must follow these precautions:

1. Ensure the step ladder is used on a level surface with solid floor support for all four feet. A step ladder must never be placed on other objects such as boxes or other unstable bases to obtain additional height.
2. Ensure the step ladder is spread fully open and the spreaders are locked. Do not use it in the partially opened position. Make sure the locking mechanism is engaged.
3. Always check the step ladder prior to each use. Look for damaged/missing parts, condition of anti-slip feet, and condition of climbing/gripping surfaces. If any damage is suspected, immediately place the step stool out of service and report to your supervisor.
4. The anti-slip feet located at the bottom of each step ladder side rail must be present and in good condition. Do not use step ladders on slippery surfaces.
5. When ascending or descending, always face toward the step ladder.
6. Set-up the step ladder close to the work being performed. Work with your body near the middle of the steps. Prevent tipping due to over-reaching from the side.

7. Never attempt to move the step ladder without first descending, relocating the step stool, and then re-climbing.
8. Store the step ladder in a location away from excessive heat or chemical vapors. Do not store items on top of the step ladder.
9. All users of step ladders must be assigned to a Work Activity that has the “Working on Stools, Stepladders, or Ladders at Heights Less Than 6 Feet” hazard and associated controls identified. Check your assigned Work Activities in the Activity Manager system.
10. All users of step ladders must complete EHS0278 “Ladder Safety” training. This is an on-line course.

Recommended ANSI 1A ladder-type step stools can be purchased through the eBuy system on the Grainger site. Search for item #45WJ85.

If you have any questions about use of step stools or ladders, please contact the ETA Safety Manager, Ron Scholtz at (510) 495-8137 for assistance.



DO NOT USE THESE IN LAB AREAS