

ROOF LADDERS- SAFETY & OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

(RETAIN IN A SAFE PLACE)

The following is not exhaustive, if in doubt further advice should be sort from HSE, The Ladder Association, the supplier, manufacturer or other suitable body.

WHAT IS A ROOF LADDER ?



Single Section



Double section extending type

Roof ladders are suspended ladders specifically designed for the purpose retained at their top by a ridge hook which rests against the opposite side of a pitched roof. Bearers underneath the climbing face of the ladder serve both to support the ladder and to ensure there is sufficient distance between the ladder and the roof enabling a firm hand and foot hold.

A roof ladder is NOT designed to be used as a leaning ladder or bridge.

Our roof ladders are suitable for roof pitches between 25 degrees and 45 degrees.

The ridge hook is supplied loose for assembly by the user and the ladder is also jointed to prevent damage whilst in transit from our warehouse. Only use the “nyloc” nuts and high grade bolts supplied by the factory. Ensure they are suitable tightened but do not crush the ladder.

For single section roof ladders the base of the ladder is supplied with a timber block that can be removed to allow additional extension pieces to be fitted. These can be supplied with similar high grade bolts but use wing nuts that should be checked for tightness before use, again only the fixings supplied by the manufacturer should be used.



RIDGE HOOK FIXINGS

3 bolts and "nyloc" nuts per side



"NYLOC" NUT JOINT

(Permanent)



WING NUT JOINT

For additional extension pieces when required

EXTENDING ROOF LADDERS

Adjustment to the required length can only be performed on the ground before use. You cannot adjust the length of the ladder when in the work position. Slide the extension piece up or down until the ladder is at the correct length. Insert the nearest rung in between the location hooks and turn the locking tab through 90 degrees to ensure the sections are prevented from disengaging whilst in use.



CATCH OPEN



CATCH LOCKED

LOCKING CATCH FOR EXTENDING ROOF LADDERS

BASIC SAFETY

Before using this equipment and to avoid personal injury, carefully read & understand these instructions.

DO NOT use this equipment if you are tired, unwell or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Aluminium ladders are extremely conductive and should NOT be used near overhead power lines or live electrical feeds within your reach and that of the equipment.

DO NOT use in windy conditions

DO NOT overreach beyond the confines of the stiles (sides) as this may cause the ladder to slip or flip over

ONLY use this equipment on roofs that are capable of supporting the weight of the ladder and user

ONLY use this equipment if you are comfortable working at height

DO ensure your hands are kept free when climbing the ladder, use a suitable tool belt and DO NOT overload the ladder with tools or materials etc.

ONLY use a roof ladder that is the correct length for the task, if you cannot obtain the correct size use an alternative method of access

Roof ladders are work equipment as prescribed by Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)

This equipment should be carefully inspected by the user prior to carrying out any work

IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT'S CONDITION DO NOT USE

The equipment should be subject to further more detailed examinations subject to the frequency of use by a competent person.

OUR RECOMMENDED FREQUENCY OF DETAILED INSPECTIONS

- Used daily- every month
- Used monthly- every 3 months
- Used infrequently- every 12 months

Records of written inspections should be retained, if there is any evidence of damage the equipment must be removed from service, quarantined and advice should be sought from the supplier/manufacturer.

Before commencing work you MUST perform a risk assessment to ensure your safety and that of others.

WORK AT HEIGHT REGULATIONS 2005

You must also adhere to the requirements of this statutory instrument, further information can be obtained from the Ladder Association or direct from HSE

DEPLOYMENT

Normally, a leaning ladder should be used to allow the roof ladder to be carried up onto the roof. The leaning ladder should be constructed to a suitable standard (ie. BS EN131) and subject to the same inspection regime as the roof ladder. The leaning ladder should be secured to the structure in accordance with schedule 6 of the work at height regulations.

As the user starts to ascend the leaning ladder they should take hold of the roof ladder near the top ideally by the second or third rungs where it feels well balanced. As the user climbs the leaning ladder the roof ladder should be carried up to eaves level, the running wheels then allowing the roof ladder to be pushed up onto the roof before it is flipped over onto it's bearers. Care should be taken to ensure the the ridge hook is securely located against the opposite side of the pitched roof. In the case of decorative type ridge tiles , specially designed ridge hooks should be used. To provide added security the roof ladder should be secured to the leaning ladder to create a complete "system". Restraint harnesses and running lines are available- as used by major telecoms providers. Advice on the use of these systems should be sort from their supplier/manufacturer.

Note that the dynamic forces that might result from a fall when used with restraint systems is likely to be higher than the ridge hook will withstand and as such research indicates that a complete "system" secured to the building structure serves to dissipate the potential loads that can be generated.

ACCESSING THE ROOF LADDER

Great care should be taken at the transition from the leaning ladder onto the roof ladder. Carefully crawl along the roof ladder gripping the rungs with your hands NOT the stiles (sides). The user should ensure they have a secure foothold on the rungs, Take care not to stand on the roof surface. Maintain 3 points of contact and when descending and do so by crawling backward on your front.

NEVER FACE THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL WHEN DESCENDING

NEVER REACH OUT FROM THE CONFINES OF THE STILES (SIDES) AS THIS MAY CAUSE THE LADDER TO BECOME UNSTABLE.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE STORAGE & TRANSPORTATION

When not being used, store the roof ladder in a clean condition in a safe place away from thieves and unauthorised personnel. Take great care when carrying roof ladders on vehicles, use a suitable designed roof rack system and method of securing the roof ladder in place (ie. Rack clamps)

TO REITERATE- IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS EQUIPMENT DO NOT USE IT UNTIL YOU HAVE CONTACTED YOUR SUPPLIER OR THE MANUFACTURER