

Scaffolding

Properly erected scaffolding, properly used, provides an excellent working platform at height.

However, scaffold incidents and accidents, whether they be collapses of the scaffold or falling people or materials/tools/equipment, tends to be catastrophic – treat scaffolding with respect.

- Do not use any scaffolding that is incomplete or out of service. We use Scafftags on this site – always check.
- Only access the scaffold by the stairs or ladder. When on the scaffold, stay within the guardrails – don't climb up, or overreach.
- Scaffolders don't waste time and effort erecting unnecessary elements of scaffold, all parts are critical – structure, boards, handrails, bracing, ties.

Don't move or interfere with any part – only competent scaffolders can do this.

- Report any defects immediately.
- Always keep the work platform clear:
 - don't leave tools and materials lying around
 - if you have to stack materials, leave room to pass
- Consider the possibility of materials and tools falling off the platform – toeboards should always be in place. If materials could fall between the guardrails and toeboard, brickguards will be required.
- Never throw, tip or drop anything from the scaffold. Always lower to the ground or use a properly constructed chute.
- All loading bays should have gates fitted. Never leave open, always shut after use.

It should not be possible to fall, even when the gate is open – some designs rotate to leave a single guard rail, others need other equipment such as work restraint harness and line – know the system on this site. Don't use the loading bay until you do.

- Most scaffolds rely on the ground they sit on for support – don't do any works such as dig trenches that could affect this support.

Do's and Don'ts

Scaffold misuse can cause serious damage and have fatal consequences

Do Not

Work on any scaffold unless it is complete and inspected (Scafftag in place).

Remove any scaffold tie, brace or any other component.

Remove boards from the platform for any purpose.

Stack materials above guard rail height, or where there are no brick guards.

Dig trenches under scaffolds.

Do

Use the stair access or ladder.

Ask your Supervisor to get a scaffolder if any alterations are needed.

See your Supervisor if crossbraces are in your way.

Ensure that strengthening works are carried out by scaffolders if trenches are to be dug around the base.

Report any gaps or 'traps' in the scaffold to your Supervisor.

Questions:

- 1 What braces and ties can you remove?
- 2 What are the issues with materials on scaffolds?
- 3 How do loading bays operate on this site?

Remember:

Falls from scaffold usually result in serious injury or death

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 7