

# Inspection and Maintenance

Ladders are useful tools that, when used properly, serve as a safety system for climbing. However, working at an elevated height presents additional risks, so it's essential to properly inspect and maintain your ladder.

## Here are a few reminders of what you should be addressing:

## **Safety Information**

- Always verify that all safety information labels are fully attached and are legible.
  - Labels which are not fully attached, missing, or not legible can lead to misuse of the ladder, resulting in serious injury or death.
  - Understanding of the ladder duty rating and ensuring duty rating is clearly visible on the ladder will avoid issues caused by overloading the ladder.

## **Inspection Detail**

- Thoroughly inspect the ladder to ensure it is in good working condition by checking the following areas of the ladder when purchased and prior to each use.
  - Locks and spreader braces
  - Steps and rungs
  - Rails
  - Connections and fasteners
  - Ropes and pulleys
  - Feet, Safety shoes and other safety equipment
    - 1. Ensure foot pads are in good condition and secure.
    - Worn or missing foot pads can cause the ladder to be unstable or slip out of position, both of which can result in serious injury or death.
- If a potential hazard is found, contact the manufacturer for replacement parts.
- Always use manufacturer approved replacement components and follow instructions provided.
- Never attempt to fix the ladder with unapproved components or methods.
- Where replacement components are not available, the ladder shall be destroyed.

#### **Proper Care**

Maintain your ladder in a safe condition and maximize its lifespan by observing the following:

- Regularly lubricate the ladder's moving parts.
- Keep the ladder clean.
- Firmly support the ladder during transport and storage to avoid excessive wear and loading at support points.
- Protect ladders from impact, excessive heat, and corrosive materials.
- Do not use a ladder as a storage shelf.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on cleaning and lubricating.





