

# Scaffold Safety Checklist

Serious injury or death can result from your failure to comply with all applicable safety requirements of federal, state and local regulations and safety guidelines before erecting, using or dismantling a scaffold.

## Set Up

- Is the scaffold being erected under the direction of a competent person?
- Are all employees involved with (or near) the scaffold wearing hard hats?
- Are footings sound and rigid and not set on soft, muddy, or frozen ground (that could melt), or resting on blocks?
- Is the scaffold level?
- Are wheels / castors locked?
- Is the scaffold able to hold four times its maximum intended load?
- Is the platform complete front to back and side to side (fully planked or decked, with no gaps greater than 1 inch)?
- Are guardrails and toeboards in place on all open sides?
- Are all sections pinned or appropriately secured?
- Is there a safe way to get on and off the scaffold without climbing on crossbraces?
- Is the front face within 14 inches of the work (or within 3 feet for outrigger scaffolds)?
- Does the scaffold meet electrical safety clearance distances?



## Use

- Is the scaffold inspected by a competent person before being put in use?
- If the scaffold is over 10 feet high, is personal fall protection provided, or are guardrails over 38 inches high?
- Are hardhats worn by workers on and around the scaffold?
- Are scaffold loads (including tools and other equipment) kept to a minimum and removed when the scaffold is not in use (like at the end of a day)?
- Are employees removed from scaffolds during high winds, rain, snow, or bad weather?
- Are materials secured before moving a scaffold?
- Are employees removed from the scaffold before they are moved?
- Are heavy tools, equipment, and supplies hoisted up (rather than carried up by hand)?

Detailed scaffolding information can be found at the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

Remember to practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.

This safety checklist was published with information from OSHA and the Texas Department of Insurance/ Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI/DWC).