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# Safety Before the First Step

Are you taking the time to properly inspect your ladders before starting to work? A thorough inspection must be made when the ladder is initially purchased and each time it is placed into service. Here are a few reminders of what you should be inspecting:

- Locks and spreader braces
- Steps and rungs
- Rails
- Connections and fasteners
- Safety shoes
- Ropes and pulleys



## Here are some steps to follow before taking your first step onto the ladder:

- Thoroughly inspect the ladder to ensure it is in good working condition.
- Clean the ladder feet as well as the climbing and gripping surfaces.
- Read the safety information label(s) on the ladder.
- Confirm that the ground where the ladder is set-up is firm and level, or use approved accessories, such as ladder levelers.
- Ensure that any surrounding doors are blocked from opening, locked or properly guarded.
- If you're using a ladder outdoors, ensure that the weather is safe for ladder use.
- Clean the soles of your shoes to maximize traction and avoid slipping.
- Ensure that you are not tired, dizzy or prone to losing your balance before using the ladder.
- Use towlines, a tool belt or an assistant to carry materials so that your hands are free when climbing.



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