



QUALITY | PRIDE | SERVICE

TOOLBOX TALK

January 16, 2023

Portable Ladders – Types and Working Loads

With the large amount of Demo work being performed by GRAY & SON this toolbox talk on Portable ladders will come at a good time. These portable ladders can hold themselves in an upright position when properly erected and include regular step ladders (also known as fold-out ladders), plus most types of specialty ladders. Portable ladders also have different capacity ratings. Ladder manufacturers communicate the maximum working load limit and duty rating of their portable ladders by attaching a sticker on one, or both, side rails of their ladders Here is an overview of the working load limits that are assigned to various portable ladders:

- ◆ Type III - Light-Duty Portable Ladder - For users requiring a maximum 200-pound working load or duty rating. For use on an occasional basis, such as general household use. Some state OSHA regulations (like California) prohibit the use of a Type III light-duty portable ladder at any work site.
- ◆ Type II - Medium-Duty Portable Ladder - For users requiring a maximum 225-pound working load or duty rating. Common use by some commercial painters, in office settings, and for light maintenance work. Most medium-duty portable ladders must not be used with ladder jacks or scaffold planks.
- ◆ Type I - Heavy-Duty Portable Ladder - For users requiring a maximum 250-pound working load or duty rating. Commonly used in factories and industrial settings, for utility work, and at construction sites.
- ◆ Type IA – Extra Heavy-Duty Portable Ladder - For users requiring a maximum 300-pound working load or duty rating. Commonly used in factories, industrial settings, for utility work, and construction sites.
- ◆ Type IAA - Special-Duty Portable Ladder - For users requiring a maximum 375-pound working load or duty rating. Also used in factories, industrial settings, for utility work, and at construction sites.

It is important to know the working loads stated above includes not just the ladder user's weight, but also the weight of clothing, PPE, tools, materials, and anything else carried or placed onto the ladder. So, take the time to calculate the total weight of everything before you climb onto a portable ladder.

Lenny Corbin (410)365-4156 ~ M O'Malley (443)244-2026 ~
Shelly Welling (410)365-5663 Jordan Babischkin 443-960-6321

We are an equal opportunity employer

430 West Padonia Road, Timonium, Maryland 21093 > graynson.com > T: 410.771.4311

