

## Ladder Safety – Selection, Purchase & Inspection

### Selecting & Purchasing Portable Ladders -

It's a good, safe idea to think about a few things when buying your new portable ladders. Remember, all ladders **are not** created equal. Here are some suggestions:



- Buy fiberglass ladders. They last much longer, are much more stable and don't conduct electricity. Wooden ladders tend to lose their stability quickly and metal ladders conduct electricity.
- Buy your portable ladders from a reputable dealer. Make sure that they'll be in business when your ladders break or are discovered to be defective.
- Buy a ladder for each needed job. Many injuries occur when someone falls from the top step of a ladder because a taller one wasn't available. In comparison, when a small ladder is needed, someone will stand on a chair because the "big ladder" is too heavy to move around.

### Inspecting Portable Ladders -

The following criteria should be used when inspecting a portable ladder:

- Inspect the ladder before each use. It could save your life!
- Ensure that all step joints are tight, hardware fittings are secure and moveable parts are operating freely.
- It should be equipped with "safety feet". Whether they are non-skid "shoes", metal spikes or spurs, make sure that they are in good condition.
- It should be free of grease and oil.
- The rungs should be uniformly spaced 12 inches apart.
- Ensure that the inspection date has been documented.

