

Job Name _____ Foreman/ Serv. Tech _____ Date _____

Step Ladders vs. Platform Ladders

Some of the Large General Contractors like Turner Construction have created programs such as “Ladders Last” hoping to remove Step ladders completely from their job-sites or at least reduce the numbers dramatically. These are *seen* as a safer alternative to A-frame ladders. This trend is picking up with more and more companies, at a minimum, requiring Platform Ladders instead of Step Ladders as these have been shown to be safer and less fatigue on the user. A 2014 study published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cited ladders as being a leading cause of all workplace injuries. According to the study, an estimated 81% of construction-related falls treated in the US emergency rooms involved a ladder.

Although these ladders are more comfortable than Step ladders, they are not without hazards. Statistics can be manipulated. Platform ladders are safe, just like Step ladders when *used properly*. They take getting used to because you cannot brace yourself on them as you do with a Step ladder when wrenching, pushing or pulling on a ladder. There have been recent cases where users have fallen off Platform ladders because they were not accustomed to working off them, lost their sense of direction while standing on them or simply could not brace themselves when working with force.

Be careful and know the use and limitations of any ladder you may be using.



Note a 6' Platform ladder is a 6' working height vs. an 8' Step ladder which has a 6' working height.

Turning on the platform ladder may increase the risk of a fall in the event you lose your balance or inadvertently step off the platform



