

How to choose the right ladder

WHICH SIZE?

Always consider carefully which size of ladder is required. Remember that working height, ie the height that can be comfortably reached, is:

- Approximately 2m (6'0") above quoted platform heights for stepladders/stools.
- Approximately equal to extended lengths for extension ladders.
- Approximately 1m (3'0") above quoted top tread heights for 3 ways/combination ladders in any mode.

WHAT RATING?

Ladders should be designed to British Standards. This classifies the ladder according to the type of use and loading levels they are capable of withstanding. Consider carefully all these factors before choosing and always look for the Kitemark. If in doubt, select the stronger product. Classification is as follows:

STEPLADDERS/3 WAYS/COMBINATION/EXTENSION LADDERS	
BS 2037 Class 1	HEAVY DUTY. Max. Vertical static load 175kg(27.5st). Duty Rating 130kgs(20.4st) Max.
BS EN 131	LIGHT TRADE /DIY Max. Vertical static load 150kg(23.6st). (Replaced previous BS 2037 Class 2 in November 1995.
BS 2037 Class 3	DOMESTIC/DIY ONLY Max. Vertical static load 125kg(19.5st). Duty Rating 95kgs(15st) Max.
STEP STOOLS	
BS 7377 Class G	GENERAL DOMESTIC/LIGHT COMMERCIAL Duty Rating 100kgs(15.8st) Max.
LOFT LADDERS	
BS 7553 Class H	HEAVY DUTY. Duty Rating 150kgs (23.6st) Max.
BS 7553 Class G	GENERAL DUTY Duty Rating 100kgs (15.8st) Max.

USE

There are three key guidelines for using ladders:

1. Always use the correct ladder for the job. Check the type, size and rating.
2. Always use 'Kitemarked' products. Look for the British Standards logo.
3. Always follow manufacturer's safety and operating instructions.

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