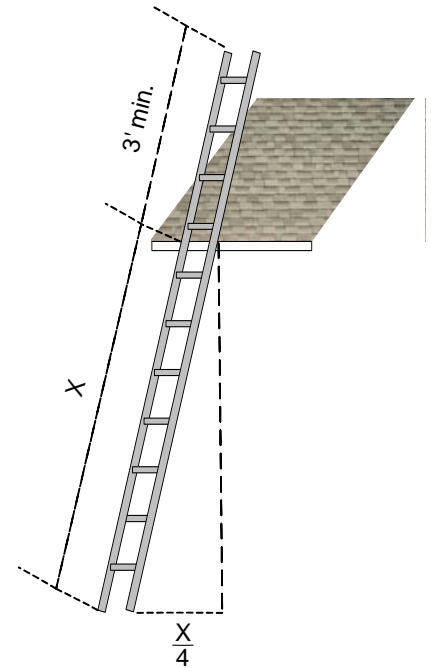


Portable Ladder Safety Requirements

Falls from portable ladders (step, straight, combination and extension) are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries.

- **Douglas County Inspectors will not enter back yards or gated side yards to gain access to the roof without written permission from the property owner. Written permission to enter the property must be clearly posted on or near the front door.**
- Read and follow all labels/markings on the ladder.
- Avoid electrical hazards! – Look for overhead power lines before handling a ladder. Avoid using a metal ladder near power lines or exposed energized electrical equipment.
- Always inspect the ladder prior to using it. If the ladder is damaged, it must be removed from service and tagged until repaired or discarded.
- Do not use the top step/rung of a ladder as a step/rung unless it was designed for that purpose.
- Always maintain a 3-point (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) contact on the ladder when climbing. Keep your body near the middle of the step and always face the ladder while climbing (see diagram).
- Only use ladders and appropriate accessories (ladder levelers, jacks or hooks) for their designed purposes.
- Ladders must be free of any slippery material on the rungs, steps or feet.
- Do not use a self-supporting ladder (e.g., step ladder) as a single ladder or in a partially closed position.
- Use a ladder only on a stable and level surface, unless it has been secured (top or bottom) to prevent displacement.
- Do not place a ladder on boxes, barrels or other unstable bases to obtain additional height.
- Do not move or shift a ladder while a person or equipment is on the ladder.
- An extension or straight ladder used to access an elevated surface must extend at least 3 feet above the point of support (see diagram). Do not stand on the three top rungs of a straight, single or extension ladder.
- The proper angle for setting up a ladder is to place its base a quarter of the working length of the ladder from the wall or other vertical surface (see diagram).
- A ladder placed in any location where it can be displaced by other work activities must be secured to prevent displacement or a barricade must be erected to keep traffic away from the ladder.
- Be sure that all locks on an extension ladder are properly engaged.
- Do not exceed the maximum load rating of a ladder. Be aware of the ladder's load rating and of the weight it is supporting, including the weight of any tools or equipment.



Douglas County requires a ladder to be placed (by the contractor or owner) in accordance with OSHA requirements. If additional ladders are necessary, due to different levels or heights, for the inspector to conduct a proper inspection, the permittee will be responsible to supply the ladders. The inspectors will not move ladders or extend ladders in order to perform the inspection. The ladder must be secured to the gutter with bungee cord or other approved method.