Platforms

Platforms - Frame Scaffold Set Up

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What should I know about the assembly of frame scaffold?
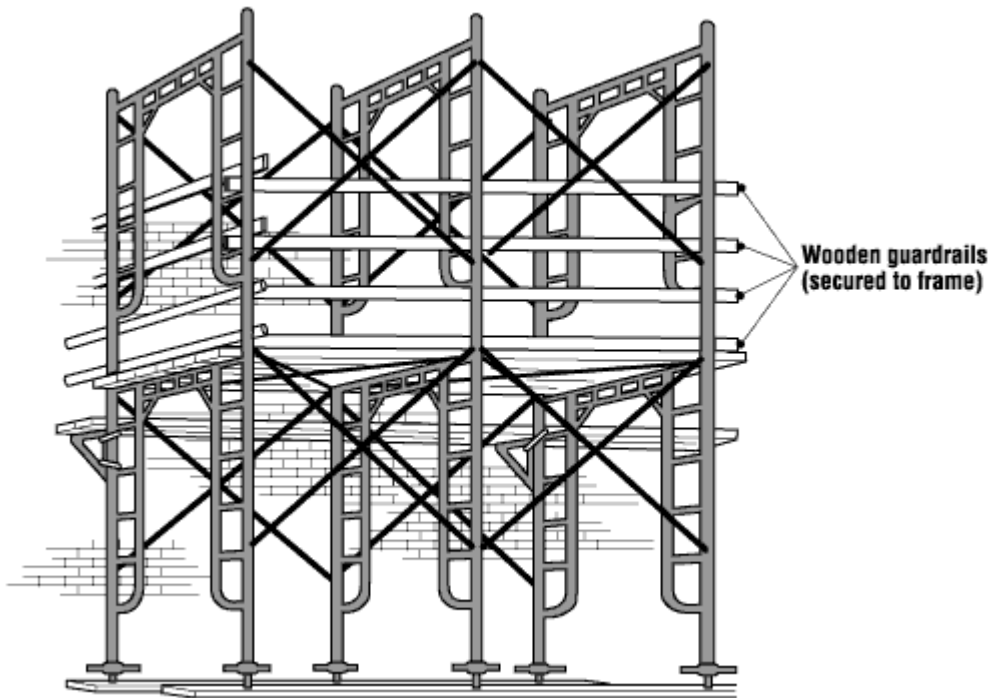
- Make sure you are trained properly to set up scaffolding.

- Check location for:
  - ground conditions

  - overhead wires

  - obstructions

  - changes in surface elevation

  - tie-in problems

- Inspect frames, braces and all other components for damage, bends and excessive rust or wear.

- Use a safety harness which is tied off to the scaffold, building or lifeline. Refer to OSH Answers [Safety Belts, Harnesses and Lanyards](#) for more information.

- Assemble frame scaffolds with one other person so that one person is on the scaffold and one is passing materials from the ground.

- Check for squareness and alignment of all scaffold parts.

- Remove debris and mud from the setup area, and level the ground before placing the staging legs.

- Setup the staging legs on a stable, solid base. Use mudsills when scaffolding is erected on soil.

- Use appropriate mud sills 50 x 250 mm (e.g., 2 x 10 ft planks) that are continuous under at least two support feet. Where possible, the sill should extend at least 600 mm (2 ft) beyond the scaffold feet at the end.

- Nail or screw the base plates to the mudsills.

- Use jackscrews to eliminate hazards created by temporarily jacking up the erected scaffold to add shims when sections settle or are not level.

- Inspect locking devices frequently.

- Make sure all sections of the first level are level and square.

- Install ladders as the erection proceeds. When scaffolds are to be in place for an extended period, install a stairway. Ladders must extend 1 m (3 ft) above the platform and be tied securely to the staging.

- Fasten all braces and guardrails securely. Make sure all cross bracing fits and locks onto each post in every section.

- Install all of the guardrails that are required: top, mid and toe. Requirements will vary depending on the materials used, and on the the legislation that applies in your area.

- Inspect planks before use. Check the weight the planks will have to carry, including the weight of the crew, tools and materials.

- Complete platform fully at each working level before assembling the next level.

- Secure the scaffolding to the adjacent building structure as specified in the legislation that applies in your area.

- Assemble all equipment according to manufacturer's specifications or engineer's design.

What should I not do when assembling scaffold?

- Do not mix frames and parts from different manufacturers.

- Do not use nails or other devices in the place of proper retention parts as recommended by the manufacturer.

- Do not substitute concrete blocks, bricks or scrap lumber for a proper mud sill base, plates and jackscrews.

- Do not overextend jackscrews.

- Do not use ladders or makeshift devices on top of scaffolds to increase the height.

- Do not use the same planks for sills as you do for platform bases.

- Do not rig braces that do not fit properly.

- Do not use cross-braces as guardrails.

- Do not use scaffold frames to climb up to work platforms.

Wooden guardrails
(secured to frame)

What should I know when dismantling scaffold?

- Make sure the structure will remain stable at all times.

- Clear platform of all materials and debris before dismantling.

- Proceed in the reverse order of erection.

- Dismantle each tier completely before starting on the one below.

- Work from full platform decks while removing braces and frames.

- Remove jammed or rusted components with caution. Tugging or pulling on stuck parts often causes a loss of balance. Wear a safety harness and lanyard which is properly tied off.

- Do not throw or drop boards or parts from heights.

- Check and maintain all scaffold parts. Repair or discard all damaged pieces immediately.

- Lubricate moving parts of all fittings.

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