

Erect and use an exterior frame scaffold

COMPANY

PROJECT / LOCATION

DATE

PREPARED BY

Set up, erect, access, and work from a frame scaffold outside a building. Includes clearing the platform and dismantling the scaffold after use.

Protective equipment

- Hard hat for falling materials and contact with scaffold frames.
- Work gloves for handling frames, planks, and guardrails.
- Work boots with slip-resistant soles.
- Full-body harness with a suitable fall arrest connection when the fall protection plan calls for it.

Before you start

- Check the foundation and scaffold parts; set aside damaged frames, planks, base plates, guardrails, and ladders.
- Review the erection sequence, scaffold stability, and fall protection for erection and dismantling with the supervisor.
- Plan ladder access and material handling so workers do not climb crossbraces or carry loads that upset their balance.
- Identify exposed energized electrical equipment and arrange a setup that prevents contact by workers, ladders, and scaffold parts.

#	JOB STEP	HAZARDS	CONTROLS
1	Clear the area and place the scaffold bases.	Soft or uneven ground lets scaffold legs sink or shift, causing collapse.	- Do not set scaffold legs on soft, muddy, or loose ground. - Support every frame leg on a base plate and mud sill or another adequate firm foundation.
		Scattered parts trip workers or strike people passing through the setup area.	- Remove debris from the setup area and access route. - Barricade the area below scaffold assembly. - Stage parts where they cannot block passage or fall into the work area.
2	Assemble the frames and braces.	Unstable frames tip or collapse while workers add scaffold sections.	- Install braces and connections as each section is assembled. - Keep frames aligned and secure the scaffold against tipping as it rises. - Follow the planned assembly sequence without leaving unsupported sections.
		Workers fall while climbing or positioning frames at open edges.	- Provide secure working planks and the planned fall protection before working at exposed edges. - Use the planned ladder access instead of climbing crossbraces.

	Frames and braces pinch hands or fall onto workers below.	- Keep people out of the area below parts being raised. - Coordinate each handoff and keep fingers away from joining points. - Wear work gloves when handling scaffold parts.
3 Install the planks and guardrails.	Loose or poorly supported planks shift or tip under a worker. Workers fall from open platform sides or ends.	- Arrange planks to provide a continuous working surface. - Support and secure planks so they cannot shift or tip. - Keep plank ends within 12 inches of their support (18 inches for planks over 10 feet), unless guardrails block access to the overhang. - Install guardrails along all open sides and ends before releasing the scaffold for use by other workers. - Keep other workers off the scaffold until the platform and guardrails are ready.
4 Set the access ladder and climb to the platform.	The ladder slips or workers lose balance while getting onto the platform. The ladder or worker contacts exposed energized electrical equipment.	- Secure the ladder against slipping, especially on slippery surfaces. - Extend portable ladder side rails at least 3 feet above the landing, or secure the top to a rigid support and provide a grabrail if that extension is not possible. - Hold the ladder with at least one hand while climbing up or down, and do not carry loads that could make you lose your balance. - Do not move, shift, or extend an occupied ladder. - Place the ladder and access route away from exposed energized electrical equipment. - Use a ladder with nonconductive side rails wherever the ladder or worker could contact exposed energized equipment.
5 Work from the scaffold platform.	Workers trip over materials or fall while reaching beyond the platform. Tools or materials fall from the platform and strike people below.	- Keep the platform and access route clear of unnecessary materials. - Keep guardrails in place while working. - Arrange the work within reach without leaning beyond the guardrails. - Do not place ladders on this frame scaffold to increase working height. - Keep the area below the work barricaded. - Keep tools and materials away from platform edges. - Lower materials under control instead of dropping them.

6 Clear the platform and dismantle the scaffold.

Removing planks or braces too soon causes falls or scaffold collapse.

Lowered parts strike workers or pinch hands during stacking.

- Remove tools and loose materials before dismantling.
- Follow the planned dismantling sequence while keeping remaining sections supported.
- Maintain safe access, working planks, and planned fall protection as sections are removed.
- Keep people outside the lowering area.
- Lower parts under control and coordinate handoffs.
- Stack parts securely and keep fingers clear of pinch points.

Stop work and call the supervisor if

- Stop and call the supervisor if the foundation settles, frames shift, or connections loosen.
- Stop and call the supervisor if planks, guardrails, safe access, or planned fall protection are missing or damaged.
- Stop and call the supervisor if electrical contact is possible or weather makes footing or scaffold stability unsafe.

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.451, General requirements; 29 CFR 1926.1053, Ladders

Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use. Not legal advice.

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REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)

REVIEW DATE

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