

How to choose The Right Ladder

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There is a vast selection of ladders on the market. You may choose from simple leaning



models and traditional freestanding units, or select telescopic and articulated ladders. The articulated ladder offers the full range of applications, so it is the perfect choice for works indoor, often within a limited space. It has many features and can be used as a traditional leaning ladder, freestanding ladder or platform. Thanks to its unique design the articulated ladder can be adjusted in height and can be folded what allows easy storage and logistic. Such ladder is an excellent choice for renovation teams that often change sites.

Renovating works in interiors requires workers to relocate often. Moreover, such jobs involve not only climbing up and going down the ladder but also transporting the ladder from floor to floor. For these tasks, the most recommended are lightweight aluminium models. Additional advantage brings articulated ladders, which apart from being lightweight are also small when folded, comfortable to carry and equipped with the silent locking system which enables quick and convenient use.



Various models of Faraone ladders you will find in IBB Builders Merchants depots or online www.ibb.uk

Aluminium telescopic ladders

Occupies little space when closed and it is easy to move. Versatile in any situation, it guarantees stability and safety. The ladder can be used also extended. Offers configurable hinge and safety ergonomic handle for hooking and unhooking the extended device of aluminium ladder. There is scissor position with limit stop and protection against accidental closing.



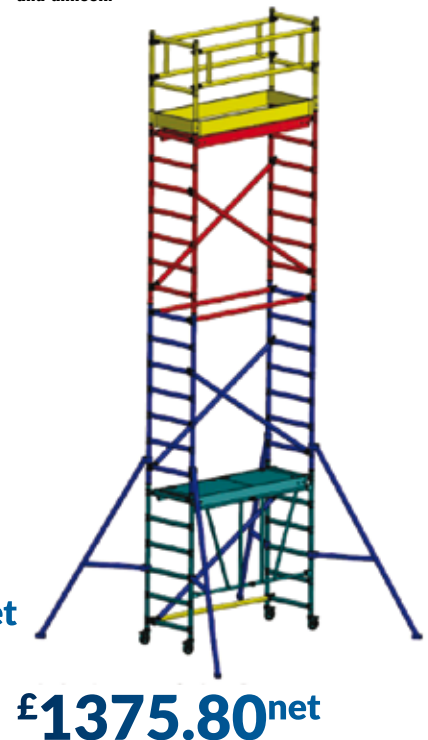
Multi-purpose triple sided extractable ladder

It has wide front step, special anti-opening device, new stabilizer base, belt for anchoring, special unhook safety device, sides with reinforced section 2,5 mm, pole support cod.



Scaffolds

Ideal for installation and assembly works in complete safety. Crosspieces and railings are easy to mount and unhook.



For more models visit www.ibb.uk

* T&C Apply. Price for registered customers.

Source: Faraone

Multi-purpose telescopic ladders are very practical due to the number of useful options. Like for instance, as an extended ladder or in the scissor position or adjusted for use on stairs. However, they hide several hazards during use regarding operator stability, as the rung is only 3 cm deep and there is no protection in the upper part. To offer the maximum safety possible, Faraone has patented a removable handrail and a step measuring 15 cm, which the operator can position in the point he is working, offering a safe grip and exceptional comfort underfoot.

The selection of an appropriate ladder for working at height is also determined by the intensity of its usage. While a standard ladder will be suitable for performing tasks which take a few minutes, works which involve staying up on the ladder for a long time require the use of a more ergonomic solution. Here the best option is the freestanding ladder with a convenient large step or a ladder that may be used as a working platform. However, the safest solution in such cases is to use scaffolding which is the most secure. Scaffolding is also highly recommended to less experienced users. There are on the market handy and not very expensive lightweight scaffolding models which are foldable and easy to set up.

Winter has not yet finished, and in some parts of the UK, snow is still possible. Snow causes risk of structure overloading and often requires removal. Also, clearing ice from gutters is necessary precautions. These works require the right ladder which will allow to get to the roof and near it. For flat roofs, it is usually enough to use a leaning ladder, but such has

to be placed on the solid ground. Additional security will be ensured when used with appropriate spikes attached to the stringers. These will allow increasing the stability of the ladder on soft ground like grass. It is advised to consider using an access beam that helps to get to the roof with tools. Removing snow from sloping roofs should be done by roof contractors only, with additional security and scaffolding.

The Ladder Association is the trade body responsible for advancing safety and best practice in the ladder industry, and oversees the delivery of national training. The Ladder Association's technical manager and chair of its Technical Committee, Don Aers said: "The changes reflect the collective experience and expertise of many contributors over an extensive period. They improve ladder design and safety and are therefore to be welcomed." The Ladder Association offers training that equips ladder users with knowledge and skills required when working at height from a ladder. It can help to evidence the competence required by the Work at Height Regulations.

Even the most functional ladder will not always meet all needs of its users. Therefore, some manufacturers offer a variety of accessories, thus increasing the efficiency of selected models. The favourite choice, especially for refurbishment projects in multi-storey buildings, are stringer extensions with adjustable height, which allow to put up the ladder on the stairs. Construction workers also appreciate distance grips which will enable them to work safely in hard-to-reach places, as well as a series of ergonomic tool bags and large shelves with a bucket hook which will

BEFORE PURCHASING A STEP LADDER:

- *Ensure it meets the revised EN 131 standard- ladder is designed and tested to take 150 kg load including the user, their tools, equipment and any materials.*
- *Professional ladders are subject to tougher durability requirements due to usage.*
- *New standards apply to new ladders and stepladders only. Any ladder or stepladder bought before standards came to force can be used if in good conditions.*
- *All future new and replacement ladders comply with the revised EN 131 standard.*

allow them to organise their tools. These accessories will also eliminate the need for going up on and down off the ladder, which is a nightmare for the workers.

It is the responsibility of the contractor, site foreman, owner or manager of the building to ensure the ladders, stepladders or scaffolds available for workers are safe, comply with the revised BS EN 131 standard, are adequately serviced, and workers are adequately trained.