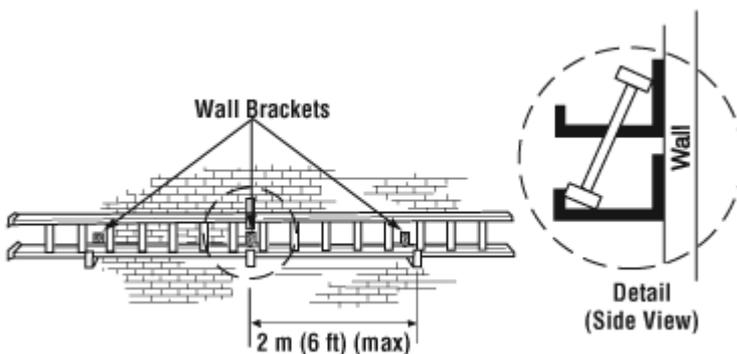


# Ladders – Storage and Handling Fact Sheet

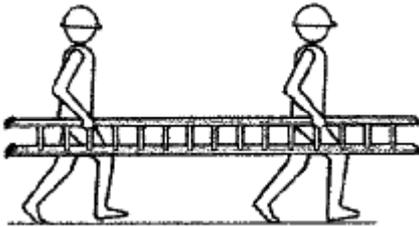


## WHAT IS THE PROPER WAY TO STORE LADDERS?

- Return ladders to storage area after use.
- Store ladders where they are protected from the weather.
- Support ladders horizontally on racks or mount on the walls. To prevent sagging, support ladders every 2 m (6 ft) as shown in the figure.



- Keep ladders clean and free of foreign materials.
- Ensure that storage areas are easy to reach.
- Keep wooden ladders in a well-ventilated location, away from dampness and excessive heat.
- Avoid long overhangs beyond support points when transporting ladders on vehicles.
- Pad racks on vehicles with soft material to reduce wear and road shocks.
- Tie ladders to each support point to reduce damage.
- Tag and remove from service a defective ladder for repair by a person authorized by the manufacturer, or replacement.
- Mark ladders which overhang vehicles with a red or orange flag.
- Grasp ladders near the centre when carrying them.
- Use caution when carrying ladders through passageways, doorways or any place where your view is obstructed.
- Use a partner to help carry long or heavy ladders.
- Ensure that you and your partner are on the same side when carrying a ladder. Stay in step. Work out in advance any hand or voice signals to coordinate stopping or changing direction.



### **What should you avoid when storing ladders?**

- Do not hang ladders from rails or rungs.
- Do not store materials on ladders.
- Do not expose fibreglass ladders to excessive temperatures (above 93°C or 200°F).
- Do not hold the front of ladders at head level when carrying them.
- Do not use a ladder which has been exposed to heat or fire. Inspect visually, and check for its strength characteristics.
- Do not expose plastic-reinforced ladders to excessive sunlight. Ultraviolet light may cause the plastic resins to degrade. If the strength of the ladder is questionable, replace the ladder.

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