

The most common type of scaffold that is used on a job site is support scaffolding. These scaffolds consist of one or more platforms supported by outrigger beams, brackets, poles, legs, uprights, posts, frames, or similar rigid supports.

General Requirements

- Inspect scaffolds and scaffold parts daily, before each work shift, and after any event that may have caused damage.
- Scaffolds must not be close enough to overhead power lines that they, or any conductive materials that may be handled on them (e.g. building materials, paint roller extensions, scaffold components), come closer than 10 feet to the power line.
- Verify that the scaffold is the correct type for the loads, materials, employees, and weather conditions.
- Check footings to see if they are level, sound, rigid, and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold. Make sure to check the legs, posts, frames, and uprights to see if they are on baseplates and mudsills.
- Check metal components for bends, cracks, holes, rust, welding splatter, pits, broken welds, and noncompatible parts.
- Check for safe access. Do not use the cross braces as a ladder for access or exit.
- Check wooden planks for cracks; splits greater than a 1/4 inch; end splits that are long; many large, loose knots; warps greater than 1/4 inch; boards and ends with gouges; mold; separated laminate; and grain sloping greater than 1 in 12 inches from the long edge.
- Make sure wooden planks are scaffold grade lumber or equivalent.
- If the planks deflect 1/60 of the span or 2 inches in a 10-foot wooden plank, the plank has been damaged and must not be used.
- Check to see if the planks are close together with spaces no more than 1 inch around the uprights.
- Check to see if 10 foot or shorter planks are 6 to 12 inches over the center line of the support, and that 10 foot or longer planks are no more than 18 inches over the end.
- Check to see if the platform is 14 inches or more away from the wall or 18 inches or less away if plastering/stuccoing.
- Check for guardrails and midrails on platforms where work is being done. Make sure toeboards are in place if employees are working under the platform.
- Use braces, tie-ins, and guying if manufacturer requires it to prevent tipping.

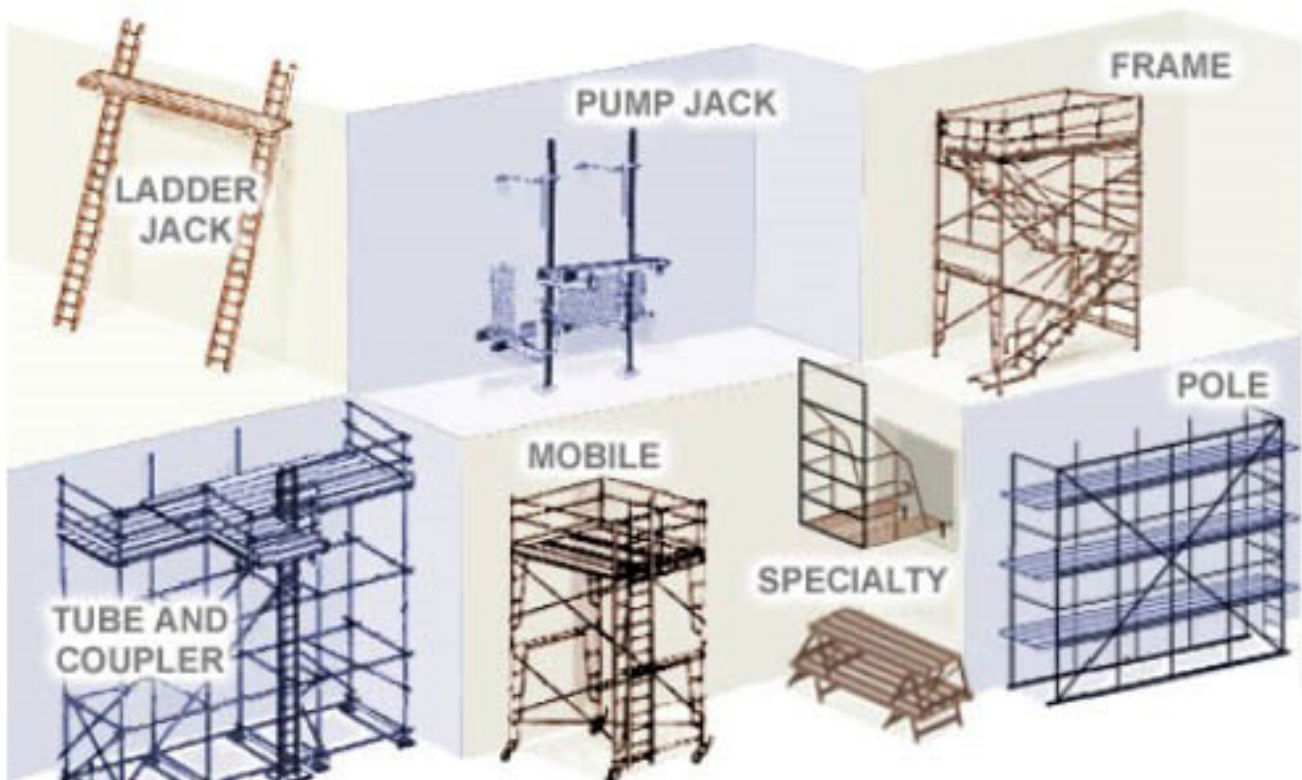


Photo Credit: OSHA.gov

References

- OSHA standard 1926 Subpart L - Scaffolds

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