

WAC 296-307-05501 How must ladders be cared for and maintained?

(1) Ladders must be checked for defects before use, and thoroughly inspected periodically. Ladders shall be inspected immediately in the following situations:

(a) If a ladder tips over, inspect for side rails dents or bends, or excessively dented rungs; check all rung-to-side-rail connections; check hardware connections; check rivets for shear.

(b) If a ladder is exposed to excessive heat, inspect visually for damage and test for deflection and strength characteristics. If you are unsure about the ladder's condition, seek help from the manufacturer.

(2) Ladders must be maintained in good condition at all times. Joints between steps and side rails must be tight. All hardware and fittings must be securely attached, and the moveable parts must operate freely without binding or with too much play.

(3) Defective ladders must be withdrawn from service for repair or destruction and tagged as "Dangerous—Do not use."

(4) Ladders with broken or missing steps, rungs, or cleats, broken side rails, or other faulty equipment must not be used; improvised repairs must not be made.

(5) Ladders must be handled with care. Avoid unnecessary dropping, jarring, or misuse.

(6) Ladder storage must:

(a) Protect the ladder when not in use;

(b) Provide sufficient support to prevent excessive sagging;

(c) Provide ease of access or inspection; and

(d) Prevent danger of accidents when withdrawing a ladder for use.

[WSR 97-09-013, recodified as § 296-307-05501, filed 4/7/97, effective 4/7/97. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, [49.17.]050 and [49.17.]060. WSR 96-22-048, § 296-306A-05501, filed 10/31/96, effective 12/1/96.]