Check that ladder before you climb! If any of the following conditions exist, stay on the ground:

- Broken, cracked or split side rails
- Broken, cracked, split or missing rungs, steps or cleats
- Deteriorating wood or metal parts
- Splinters, sharp edges, burrs or projections on rungs, steps or cleats
- Loose connections, fastenings or hardware
- Loose, broken or missing bracing
- Unstable or lacking in rigidity.

Accessories that help make a ladder safe:
1. Ladder feet and treads in a variety of styles are available to suit different surface conditions.
2. Ladder levelers, which are easy to attach and adjust, should be used when it is impossible to get footing on uneven ground.
3. Top ladder end can be modified by addition of special accessories to rest on other than flat surfaces such as poles, trees, etc.

Using a Ladder Safely
- Don't use a painted ladder — paint can hide structural defects.
- Don't use metal ladders when working near electrical conductors.
- Place ladder so that space between bottom of ladder and wall or support is at least one-fourth of vertical length.
- Do not place ladders in front of doors or doorways which open in direction of ladder unless doors are locked or blocked open.
- Always face ladder when ascending or descending.
- Never place a ladder on boxes or other unstable devices to secure additional height.
- Don't splice two ladders together to provide longer sections.
- Choose proper length ladder for job:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vertical Height is</th>
<th>Minimum Working Lglth.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 ft.</td>
<td>16 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 ft.</td>
<td>18 ft.</td>
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<td>16 ft.</td>
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<td>20 ft.</td>
<td>24 ft.</td>
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<td>24 ft.</td>
<td>28 ft.</td>
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<td>28 ft.</td>
<td>32 ft.</td>
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<td>32 ft.</td>
<td>36 ft.</td>
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<td>34 ft.</td>
<td>40 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>38 ft.</td>
<td>44 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>44 ft.</td>
<td>50 ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you want to make your own wooden ladder:
1. Make sure wood is sound, straight-grained, and free of large knots, checks or decays.
2. Use side rails at least 1½" x 3": construction grade 2" x 4"s are acceptable.
3. Top of each step or cleat should be no more than 12" from top of preceding step.
4. Each step should be at least 12" wide.
5. Make cleats for cleated ladder of clear 1" x 4"s (Douglas Fir suggested).
6. Inset cleats not less than ½" into side rails, or attach directly to front edge of side rails with filler blocks the same thickness as cleats for full spacing between cleats.
7. Fasten cleats to each rail with three 10-d nails or equivalent.

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