

# Scaffolding

Workers' safety is the primary concern with erecting and using scaffolding. Serious injury or death can result from your failure to comply with all applicable safety requirements of federal, state and local regulations and safety guidelines before erecting, using or dismantling a scaffold.

All volunteers who erect, use and disassemble scaffolding **must wear a hard hat at all times.**

Scaffolding must always be erected under the supervision of a competent worker.

## Set Up Checklist

- Is the scaffolding being erected under the direction of a competent person?
- Are all volunteers involved with (or near) the scaffolding wearing hard hats?
- Are footings sound and rigid and not set on soft, muddy, or frozen ground (that could melt), or resting on blocks?
- Is the scaffolding level?
- Is the platform complete front to back and side to side (fully planked or decked, with no gaps greater than 1 inch)?
- Are guardrails and toeboards in place on all open sides?
- Are all sections pinned or appropriately secured?
- Is there a safe way to get on and off the scaffolding without climbing on crossbraces?

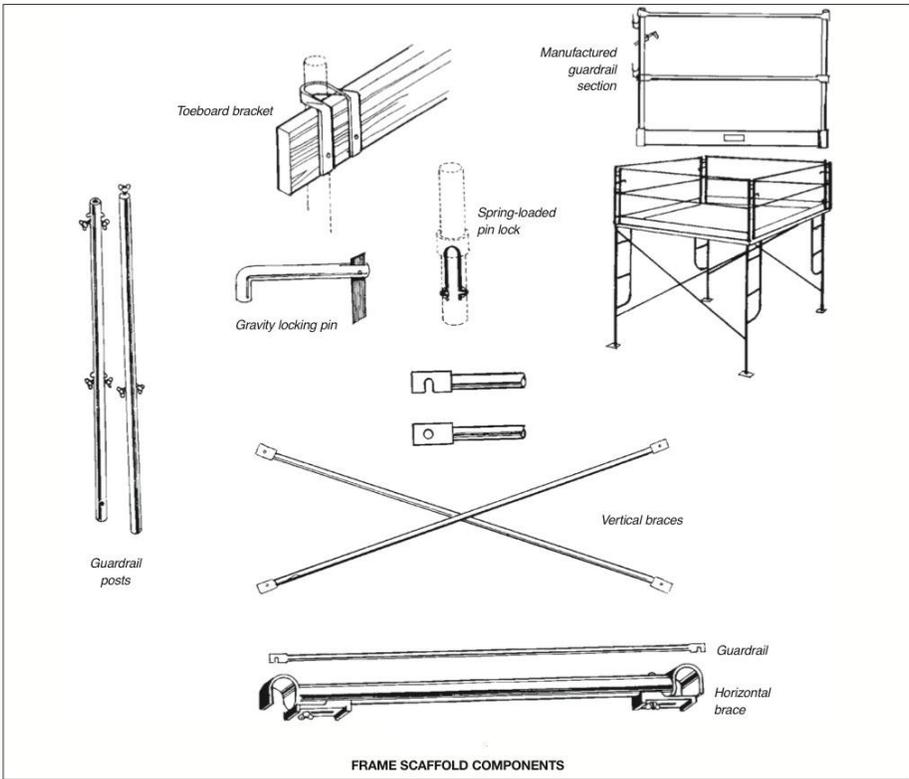
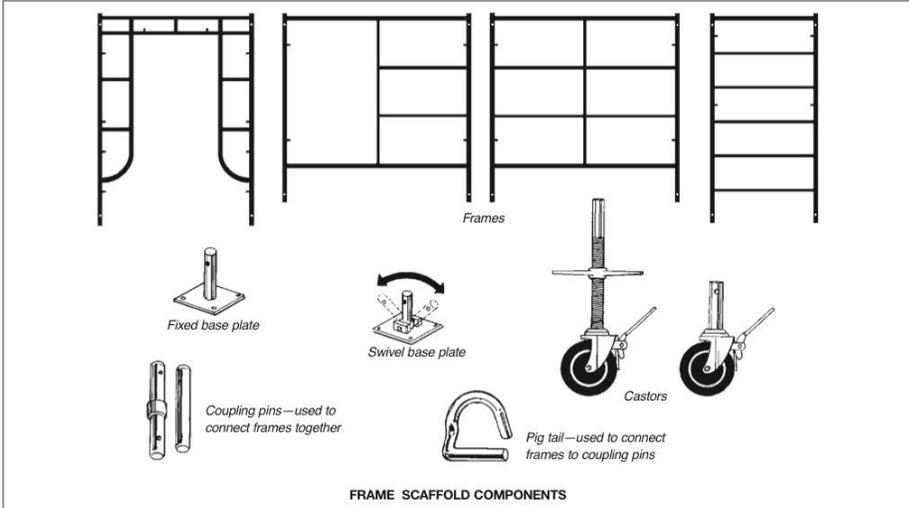
## Use Checklist

### DO

- Make sure a competent person has inspected the scaffolding before you go up.
- Wear a hard hat whether you work on or under scaffolding.
- Be sure to wear sturdy shoes with nonslip soles.
- Watch out for co-workers on the scaffolding as well as people below.
- When working on scaffolding, move around slowly and carefully.
- Hoisted up (rather than carry up by hand) heavy tools, equipment, and supplies.
- Ask a supervisor if you're not sure if scaffolding or working conditions are safe.
- Use a ladder to get on and off the scaffolding.

### DON'T

- Overload scaffolding.
- Keep debris or unnecessary materials on scaffolding where someone could trip over them or accidentally knock them off the platform.
- Hit a scaffolding with anything heavy—a truck, a forklift, a load of lumber, etc.
- Leave materials and equipment on the platform at the end of day.
- Use crossbraces to climb on and off the scaffolding.



# Erect Scaffolding

## Base Preparation and Setup

- 1) The key to trouble-free scaffold assembly is to begin with a firm and stable foundation.
- 2) Remove mud and debris from the setup area, and level the ground where the legs of the staging will stand.
- 3) Attach 18” 2x10 mudsills to baseplates with 16d nails bent over in 4 holes. Screw jacks will help you level if the first frame sets on uneven ground.
- 4) Never use stacks of wood blocks, bricks, or concrete blocks to level the staging.

## Erection of Frames and Cross Bracing

- 1) Place your first frame sets onto the baseplates and attach cross bracing on both sides.
- 2) Adjust each section so it's level and square.
- 3) Always use base plates even when setting up staging on a wood deck, concrete slab, or asphalt to keep the pipe staging legs from punching through the surface under heavy loads.

## Stacking Higher Levels

- 1) Each next level of frames going up should fit and lock onto the coupling pins in the lower level staging.
- 2) Never use un-matched sets of frames that don't fit together. And always install the locking pins through the joined sections to hold them together.

## Planking and Toe-boards

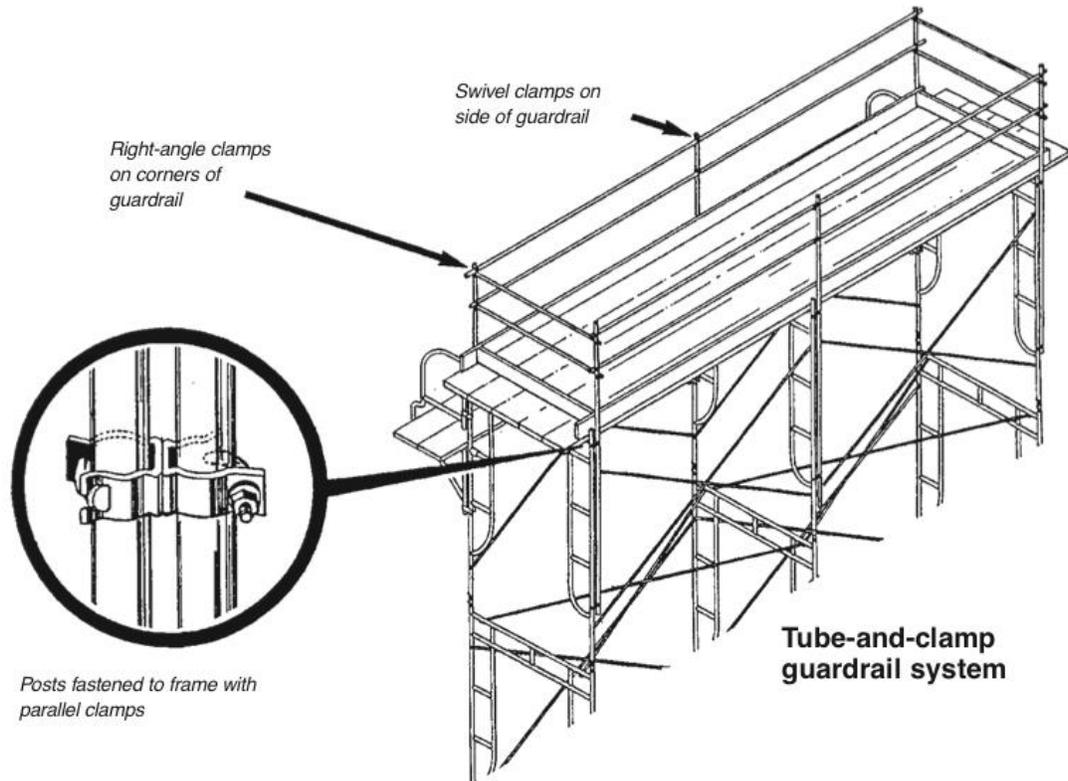
- 1) Only use plank-grade lumber to avoid dangerous knots common in framing lumber. While engineered lumber and aluminum/plywood planks may cost more, they last longer and are safer than lumber planks.
- 2) Plan for the weight that the planks will have to carry.
- 3) Every working level must be fully planked across the work platform with no gaps wider than one inch.
- 4) Toe-boards a minimum of 4 inches high prevent materials and tools from falling from the work platform.

## Access

- 1) Scaffold frames are designed for support only, not as a way to climb to the work platform.
- 2) Place and tie a properly sized ladder against the scaffold for access to the work platform, or install prefabricated staging stairs with handrails that run inside the frames.

## Guard Rails and End Rails

- 1) Platforms higher than 10 feet (7 feet in California) require two guardrails placed about 19 inches and 42 inches above the work platform.
- 2) Install manufactured guardrails or use 2x4's tied with #18 tie-wire. Do not use cross-braces as guardrails.
- 3) Enclose open ends with end rails that run to the building.



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