

For guidance on managing construction health risks go to [www.hse.gov.uk/construction](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction)

## WORK AREA

1. Ensure the area is clear and safe and there is no-one closeby who could cause distraction.
2. Protect other people from the risk associated with the task. Warn others to keep away, place barriers and signs around the work area.
3. Consideration must be given to the working surfaces, i.e. flat, level and can support the load of the person, tools and equipment.
4. Check for and isolate any services, such as electricity, gas and water in the area where works will be taking place.

## GUARD RAILS FOR STAGINGS

1. Suitable precautions (guard rails) must be taken in circumstances where a fall from any height, even under 2 metres, could cause injury.
2. The main guard rail should be positioned at least 970mm above any edge from which persons may fall.
3. A toe board must be at least 150 mm high to prevent objects and work materials from being kicked or accidentally knocked from the work platform.
4. An intermediate rail should be in place so that the unprotected gap (between guard rail and height of toe board) is no greater than 470 mm.

## INSURANCE

1. Under the terms of hire, the hirer is responsible for the safe custody of the equipment. The hire company must be indemnified against loss or unreasonable damage such as vandalism. The best way to achieve this is by insurance.
2. Some hire companies will offer insurance cover at an extra charge.
3. However, the equipment must always be secured against theft or vandalism.
4. In addition, if damage is caused to property belonging to a third party or involved in a highway accident it is unlikely normal insurance policies will give the hirer any protection.
5. If in any doubt about insurance cover, check with the hire company or the insurer immediately.
6. If the equipment appears to be faulty, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

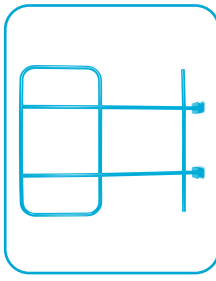
**Keep this leaflet in a safe place until work is finished as it may need to be referred to again.**



# Guard rails for Stagings

**Important - please read: Falls from height account for the majority of both DIY and industrial accidents. More than half of the consumer accident fatalities recorded are attributed to falls.**

**It is important to read this entire leaflet and any other leaflets that may be provided with stagings and trestles or other equipment that may be hired.**



1. Working at height requires careful consideration. Always plan the job and envisage any problems in order that they may be dealt with safely.
2. The following items of personal protective equipment are the minimum that must be worn: Safety Boots, Gloves, Goggles, Hearing Protection, Respiratory Protection.
3. Important - Guard Rail kits for Stagings do NOT have provision for use of Fall Protection Equipment, such as a harness or a lanyard - check with the hire company.
4. Tasks involving working at height must not be performed by minors or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
5. The equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
6. If the equipment is to be left in position unattended, for example overnight, then it should be made secure to prevent unauthorised use.



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