

MAREK

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Web-Tex Scaffold Safety

At the Marek Family of Companies, we thrive on having safe equipment. Keep in mind that equipment is only as secure as the people who use it are. We have two sizes of the Web-Tex scaffolds: 6' and 8'. You should use the smallest size possible to reach your work.

Today, you will discuss the proper uses for a Web-Tex Scaffold, covering the following points:

- **INSPECT THE WEB-TEX** before use and report any unsafe conditions to your supervisor. Individually inspect each truss, connector pins, and wheel locks. If there are any broken truss locks, put the scaffold out of service and replace the truss. **“ALL FOUR WHEELS MUST BE LOCKED IN PLACE WHILE WORKING ON THE SCAFFOLD,”** to use the Web-Tex. The same goes for truss locks: take any defective equipment out of service and make sure to report unsafe equipment to the foreman.
- Make sure that you have an adequate guardrail when you set up your scaffold. Guardrails must be installed when the work platform is 4' or higher off the ground. Combining two 6-foot frames for access to higher areas should be avoided when possible. Check with your immediate supervisor before considering this type of system.
- The walk board must be approved for use on the scaffold being used. **DO NOT USE J-LINE ALUMINUM WALK BOARDS WITH WEBTEX SCAFFOLDS.**
- **MAKE SURE** the board sits properly on each truss and is secure
- **DO NOT** walk underneath the scaffold while working or moving the scaffold to avoid exposure to falling objects.
- Web-Tex scaffolds that have a platform at eight feet high will need to have an additional third truss at the bottom to keep the frames square and from spreading out.
- Web-Tex walk boards must have a metal strip securely attached around the perimeter of the board, and the board must rest securely within the truss rails.
- **ALWAYS LOCK WEB-TEX WHEELS PRIOR TO ACCESS.** Do not use any Web-Tex scaffold unless all four wheel locks are in operational condition. Missing wheel locks should be identified in the pre-use inspection and corrected immediately.

Web-Tex scaffolds are designed for use in confined spaces and narrow aisles. In stairwells, Web-Tex scaffolds are ideal because the wheels can be offset to provide a level surface. **Remember that all four wheels must be turned perpendicular to the stair tread and locked out when using the Web-Tex system on stairs.**

Never step off onto the structure to support yourself while occupying the platform. **SCAFFOLDING IS NOT DESIGNED FOR SIDE LOAD AND WILL MOVE AWAY FROM THE FORCE BEING APPLIED TO THE STRUCTURE.**

When working alone, you must climb down before moving the scaffold. Project Safe states: Self-propelling on a Web Tex scaffold is strictly prohibited and will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Real World Note: Due to the narrow design of the Web-Tex system, “up and through” the end is always safer than swinging around the side. Take caution when pulling downward on one end of a guardrail section while accessing the platform, as the other side may pull up, become disconnected from the frame, and cause you to fall. Securing the mid-rail to the upper rung of the frame with ceiling wire is a highly recommended way to prevent this.

The two leading causes of accidents on scaffolds are:

Operator Errors or Equipment Failure

Operator errors can be eliminated through close supervision and employee training. Equipment errors can be eliminated by thoroughly inspecting the scaffold *before* use.

Web-Tex scaffolding is an invaluable tool when used properly in the appropriate areas. By following the guidelines specific to this type of system, the chances of fall-related accidents can be significantly reduced.

Note to Supervisors: Conclude this meeting with a demonstration of Web-Tex Scaffolding and identify the specific areas on your jobsite where this type of system should be used.