

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

important

READ ALL THESE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING TO INSTALL YOUR LOFT LADDER

This ladder is designed for residential use. It is not recommended for commercial use. Nor may the ladder be used if the height of the ceiling exceeds the maximum ceiling height stated in the installation instructions or product label.

Always face the ladder when going up or down, and always hold on to the ladder sides with at least one hand (or hold on to the handrail, if supplied). The ladder must only be used by one person at a time. The ladder must not be used if it is broken or not fully operational in any other way.

The ladder springs are very taut, so they must not be removed during installation. If it is necessary to remove the springs due to exceptional circumstances, do so with extreme caution and only when the ladder is closed (the springs are looser then).

If the ladder is not delivered in assembled condition, please refer to the enclosed assembly guide before starting installation.

The maximum capacity of this attic ladder (persons plus materials being carried) is 150 kg (330 lbs.) Any extra load could break the ladder, and may cause serious injury.

1. Persons, tools and materials required:

We recommend that 2 people are used to install this attic ladder, one of whom is strong enough to lift the ladder into the attic up to 40 kg (88 lbs.) depending on the model in question). You need the following materials and tools:

- a screwdriver
- a hammer
- a pencil
- a handsaw
- a tape measure
- a framing square
- a 10 mm (2/5") spanner
- 100 mm (4") screws or nails
- oil
- joist-sized lumber (same dimensions as ceiling joists, when necessary)
- temporary support boards approx. 20 cm (8") longer than width of opening
- wooden blocks and wedges
- a tall stepladder
- boards for working platform (when necessary)

The stepladder must be tall enough so you can get into the attic without stepping above the working height of the stepladder. The stepladder must also be strong enough to support both your weight and the weight of the attic ladder being installed. We recommend that one person holds the stepladder while the other is using it.

2. Assembly instructions:

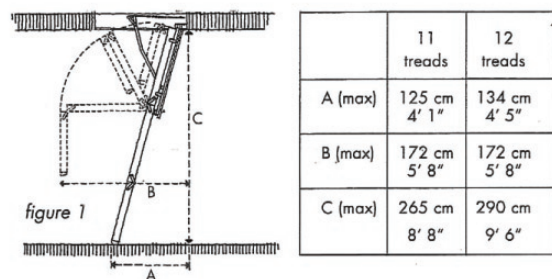
Always observe the enclosed assembly guide carefully to ensure proper assembly of the product. If there are any problems, please contact your stockist for assistance.

WARNING: Once the ladder is fully assembled NEVER disassemble it to install it in the attic.

Positioning the ladder:

Using gloves to remove the insulation in the attic, check that the position you choose to install your attic ladder is free of any hazards and obstructions such as electrical wires, water pipes, heating and cooling ducts, etc. If necessary, ask for professional assistance to remove such obstacles.

Make sure that there is sufficient space for a safe landing area at the bottom of the ladder. Make sure that there is enough clearance for the swing of the ladder as it is being unfolded to its full length (see figure 1). For models in two sections, there must also be sufficient space for the swing of the ladder in the attic.



3. Making a rough opening:

We recommend that you wear goggles and a mask to protect you from falling ceiling particles and dust. Remove any furniture that is in the way, and cover the floor.

Cut the opening to the size shown on the packaging, as this will allow at least 10 mm (2/5") fitting clearance. This will allow room for spacer wedges, as well as making it possible to square the ladder completely. In most cases ladders are installed parallel with the ceiling joists. If not, please consult a professional. Figures 2 and 3 show how to frame the rough opening. Installation parallel to existing joists requires only single joists and headers. Installation at right angles to the joists requires double headers using the same size lumber as existing joists.

WARNING: If your ceiling joists are not made of wood (e.g. steel) you must consult a professional before

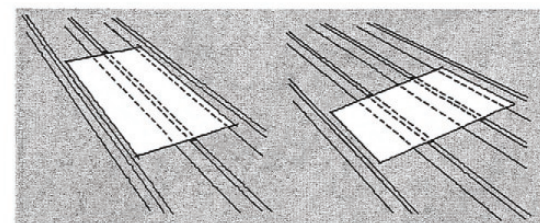


figure. 2

figure. 3

installing your ladder. Do not cut load-bearing joists without professional assistance. Take great care before cutting any joists. If there is no floor in the attic, place boards at right angles to the joists so you can move around the attic safely during installation. With a truss/rafter construction you should seek technical advice before cutting any trussmembers.

4. Installing temporary support boards:

It is necessary to keep the ladder in the prepared rough opening during installation, using support boards and posts. If the trapdoor is to be faced, it must be installed higher than the opening to ensure that the facing will be flush with the opening.

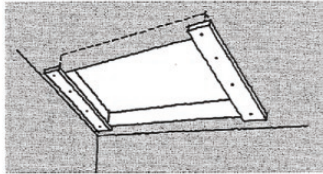


figure 4

WARNING: It is very important to position these boards correctly and firmly to prevent the ladder from falling. Use screws if you have a plaster ceiling. **DO NOT** place any weight on the ladder at this stage.

5. Attachment of the ladder:

One person must go up into the attic with all the necessary tools, while the other stays below.

Standard models

Lift the ladder up into the opening. Before positioning the ladder in the opening from above, place two support boards under the ceiling opening on which the ladder can rest (see figure 4). Fold the ladder up so the casing can be attached to the ceiling opening. Make sure the ladder is flat and squared off correctly. Attach the ladder using 100 mm (4") nails or screws (4 along each side).

Models with white plastic architrave

Attach this model from beneath. Place the support boards on posts underneath the ladder when it has been positioned in the opening, and attach them temporarily (see figure 5). Then adjust the position of the ladder and fix it in place. Fold the ladder up so the casing can be attached to the ceiling opening. Make sure the ladder is flat and squared off correctly. Attach the ladder using 100 mm (4") nails or screws (4 along each side).

Once the ladder has been fixed in place, remove the support boards.

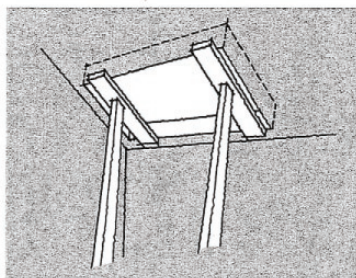


figure 5

WARNING: Do not use the ladder until it has been fixed in the opening and adjusted to the correct ceiling height.

6. Adjustment to correct ceiling height:

Pull down the ladder sections, folding the lower section under the middle section so the top and middle sections form a straight line (see figure 6). Using a straight board, measure distances "A" and "B" as shown in figure 6. It is

important to measure "A" and "B" on both sides of the ladder, because the floor may be uneven. Measure down from the top of the lower section and mark the measurements "A" and "B" on each side rail. Draw a straight line between the 2 marks and saw off both ladder legs along the marked lines. **DO NOT TRIM THE LEGS TOO SHORT.** If the ladder is too short it may collapse suddenly while in use, which could result in serious injury.

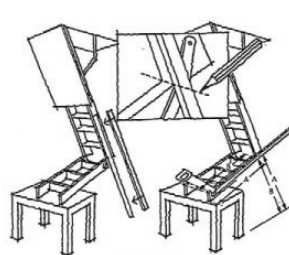


figure 6

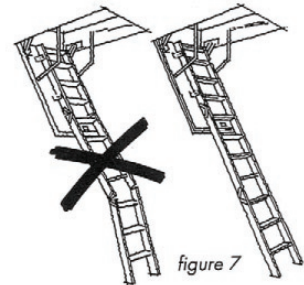


figure 7

Check that you have trimmed the legs correctly by extending the ladder fully. All 3 sections should be straight with no gaps between the sections, and the feet should rest flat on the floor (see figure 7).

NB! If your ladder is supplied with plastic feet, you should only measure distance "A" on the lower section. Subtract 20 mm (4/5") and saw the legs straight across, because the plastic feet are inclined (see the enclosed assembly guide for further details).

WARNING: **DO NOT** use the ladder unless the ladder sections form a straight line. If the ladder is too long, trim

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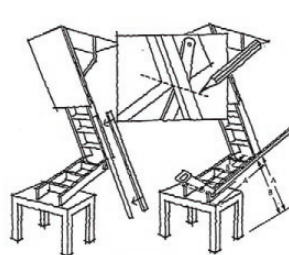


figure 6

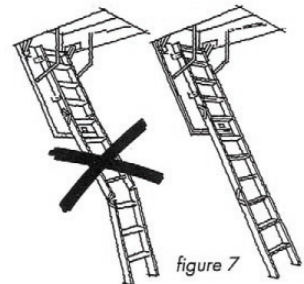


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If the trapdoor is to be faced with profile boards etc., it may be necessary to adjust the spring tension.

IMPORTANT: The trapdoor must be closed during adjustment.

Profile boards must not weigh more than 6 kg (13 lbs.); to prevent any excessive load on the ladder. In addition, boards must not be more than 16 mm (3/5") thick so the trapdoor can be opened.

Trapdoors made of chipboard or plywood must be painted on both sides - otherwise they may become deformed.

9. Accessories:

We recommend the following accessories to increase safety:

- A handrail (see figure 9)

- A grabrail in the opening

Please contact your stockist to order these accessories.



figure 9



figure 10

