Choosing the Right Anchorage
for your personal fall arrest system

DO USE: Certified anchorages that meet or exceed OSHA regulations.

All anchorages should be:
- Designed before construction begins
- Independent of anchorages used to suspend other employees or work platforms
- Properly marked and rated for 5,000 lbs per employee attached
- Designed, installed, and used under supervision of a qualified person, as part of a complete personal fall protection system that maintains a safety factor of at least 2

Engineered anchor point systems typically exceed regulations and are the safest option.

- Engineered anchorages can be temporary or permanent:
  - If temporary, use an anchorage structure that is strong, secure and immobile, such as a secured I-beam.
  - If permanent, they can be used after construction for window washing and maintenance.
- They may not be designed for use with horizontal lifelines. Talk to a competent person to determine if a leading edge solution is required.
- When engineered anchor points are unavailable, existing support beams, columns, or other structures may be used, but be careful! Don’t use an existing structure unless you are sure the structure will support at least 5,000 lbs per employee.

DON’T USE bad anchor points, such as:
- Vents or stand pipes
- Railings/guardrails
- Air vents/ductwork
- Fixed ladders
- Electrical conduits
- Air conditioning units
- Skylights/light fixtures

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