

ULTRA ACCESS June Newsletter

Tethered Scaffold (and other) Tools and why you should use them...

This month we would like to discuss the tethering of ones tools...

Tool Tethers are ropes, chains, bungee cords, (or similar) and/or flexible restraints used to attach something to a fixed point, somewhat limiting its movement, and also restricting its chance to fall from a great height when in use.

They can also refer to a cord attaching a device like a smartphone, or an iPad/tablet to another fixed point.

In scaffolding it is contentious subject, whether to tether ones tools whilst working at height or in general on the scaffold.

On the one hand: where there are no specific regulations or laws about having to tether your tools, the **Working at Height Regulations 2005** does mention, albeit not directly that controls should be put in place to negate the risk of ANY falling items, tools or materials - and this is to be prioritised where "reasonably practicable".

On the other hand: they can become tangled and could cause a lapse of concentration for the scaffolder whos trying to untangle their tethers, instead of concentrating on the work they are doing.



There are many tool tether variations (and types) available to purchase online, with our choice always being **Leachs**.

www.Leachs.com has a number of solutions available for all of your tool tethering needs, from singular tethered tools to complete kits (full tool belts).



Why take the time to tether your scaffolding tools?
(and have to deal with the added frustration of "getting used to them")

Duty of Care.

The Working at Height Regulations 2005 might allude to, without explicitly saying so, the need to take precautions when working at height and where reasonably practicable, ie; tethering ones tools... the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 is VERY clear in its wording of "Duty of Care".

If you, as the scaffolder - or the scaffold contractor are working at height, and are using tools or equipment to ply your trade, then **you MUST show reasonable care has been taken to stop your tools from falling** onto unsuspecting others below you.

And many Principal Contractors are now requiring that all scaffolding works are carried out using tethered tools due to the very real risk of said tools falling from height.

They might be annoying to work with, but they could well stop a fatal accident from occurring. Better to be safe, than sorry...