

COMMON TYPES OF SCAFFOLDING

Proprietary and prefabricated

Proprietary scaffold systems are designed by an engineer and must be erected, used, and dismantled in accordance with the specifications for the system.

Proprietary scaffold systems can be solely made up of prefabricated components or made up of prefabricated components but with additional components not covered by the manufacturer's specifications (see below).

Examples of prefabricated scaffold systems include:

- independent scaffold
- tower scaffold
- mobile scaffold



- frame type systems (H frames, speedy frames)
- individual component type systems (ringlock, cuplock, quickstage).



Proprietary scaffolding can also be used to create hanging scaffolds, cantilevered scaffolds, bridges, etc.

Tube and coupler

This system is constructed of plain tubes connected by couplers to form a structure that supports working platforms made up of planks. The tube and coupler system is versatile and can be assembled in a wide range of configurations but requires a high level of skill and knowledge to ensure the finished scaffold is safe and fit for the intended use.

The maximum height of a tube and coupler scaffold constructed in accordance with WorkSafe NZ guidelines is 33 m measured from the supporting structure to the top of the working platform. Scaffolds above this height require engineer design.



Suspended scaffold

A suspended scaffold consists of a platform, suspended by ropes, which can be raised and lowered manually or by power-operated scaffolding hoists. A suspended scaffold may incorporate a boatswain's chair, cradle, work cage, articulated cradles or multilevel cradles.

