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Basic Scaffolding Terminology 1

Knowing the basics when looking at a scaffold...

There's a lot to learn with regards to the terminology used in the scaffolding industry. It can be confusing for some, especially those with little to no knowledge of the trade, some terms used and names for certain elements can even be different depending on where you are in the country, or what sector you are working in.

So, lets begin...

Standards: or "Legs" are the "vertical tubes" that point upwards.

They hold the main weight of the structure and its loads, and placed at certain regular intervals - being grounded onto a solid base, with its weight spread out over a larger area using **Sole Boards** (essentially 18inch long cut down regular scaffolding boards) and **Base Plates** (a square, thin, steel plate, usually with a small up-stand), used to disperse the weight coming from the tube end down through to the Sole Board.

Other types of "footings" can be used instead of Sole Boards and Base Plates, and this is usually loading-capacity of the structure and foundation depending.

Ledgers: are the "horizontal tubes" that connect the Standards together.

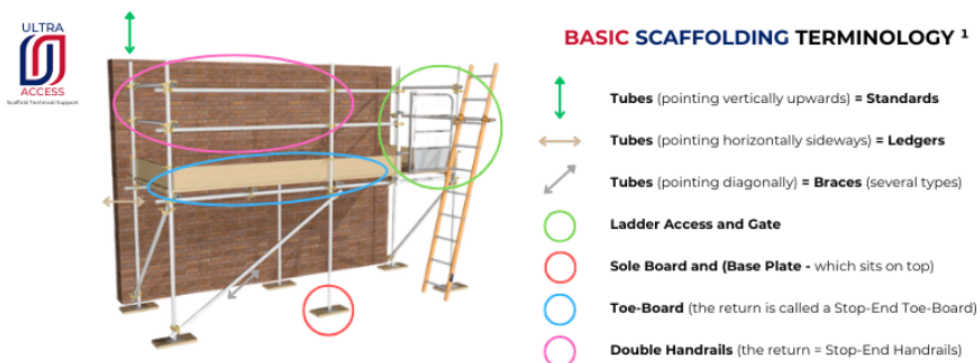
They are usually joined with **Double Couplers** (a **Load Bearing** fitting) and are fixed at certain heights, to form the main base of a "scaffold lift" (the working / non-working platform).

Braces: are the "diagonal tubes" that give the scaffolding structure its strength and stability. Connected with different **Load Bearing** fittings, although **Swivel Couplers** are the most common type used in Braces.

There are several types of configurations:

- **Ledger Bracing** - used to stabilise a scaffolds width, usually fixed from Ledger to Ledger (or as close as, upto 300mm of the strongest point - the "Node Point").
- **Sway / Facade Bracing** - used to stabilise a scaffolds length, usually fixed from Standard to Standard (or as close as, upto 300mm of the Node Point)
- **Plan Bracing** - used to stop a scaffold from twisting / deflecting, usually fixed between internal and external Ledger underneath - again as close to the Node Point as possible, within 300mm.

There are other types of bracing, like "Church Bracing" and "Knee Bracing" although these are not very common and only used in specific circumstances.



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