

Tarping is an inherently dangerous task. It's widely known to cause slip and fall injuries, as well as musculoskeletal injuries to shoulders, backs, knees. Be sure to take your time and use best practices when tarping products. And remember, non-slip footwear is essential for all trucking tasks. Here are some more things to keep in mind:

Using a ladder:

- Inspect the side rails and rungs.
- Be sure the ladder has solid footing.
- Extend the ladder three feet above the load when applicable.
- Ensure the proper angle to the ladder (3:1 height to base).
- Keep three points of contact.

Using a platform:

- Ensure a sturdy platform surface with stable base and solid footing.
- Use platforms/walking surfaces that are at least 22 inches wide.
- Use guardrails for heights exceeding four feet. Refer to LC1015: Working at Heights for more information.

Unfolding and placing the tarp:

- If possible, have a forklift position the tarp on the load. If not, use a ladder to access the load.
- Carefully unfold the tarp and drop over the sides.
- Avoid walking on the load if possible.
- Never walk backwards.
- Watch for holes and uneven sections in the load.
- Work from your hands and knees near load edges.
- Employ fall prevention/protection/arrest methods, including the use of:
 - Low profile trailers
 - Vehicles with detachable tray for ground-level loading and unloading
 - Self-unloading tippers
 - Truck mounted cranes that are operable from ground level, away from the vehicle
 - Specially designed trailers, such as twin deck with walkway access down the center of tray with lanyard/harness attachment points
 - Flat top trailer with vehicle mounted crane fitted with access ladders and fixed side gates

Fastening the tarp:

- Wear safety glasses.
- Fasten rear folds from the top of the load.
- Use bungee straps or ratchet straps to help hold the tarp.
- When pulling bungee straps/ratchet straps, stand to the side to avoid possible injury from straps snapping back.
- Keep fingers away from pinch points.

Removing the tarp:

- Grab one corner and raise it quickly to get air under the tarp.
- Use a steady, balanced tug to pull the tarp off.
- Straighten and flatten the tarp to make it easier to fold.
- If possible, use a mechanical device to transport tarp to the storage area.