

A Simple Guide to Hiring Access Equipment Safely and Sensibly

Working at height brings extra risk, which means access equipment should never be chosen casually. The right solution depends on the type of work, the height involved, the ground conditions, and how long the task will take.

Choose equipment for the task, not just the height

It is not only about reaching high enough. You also need to consider:

- how long the work will take
- whether you need both hands free
- whether tools or materials must be taken up with you
- whether you need to move along a wall, ceiling, or elevation

Think about the surface below

Ground and floor conditions matter. Ask yourself:

- is the surface flat and stable
- is it internal or external
- is there a slope, soft ground, or uneven paving
- will the equipment sit safely where it is needed

Consider where it will be used

Access equipment for indoor decorating may be very different from what suits external repairs, tree work, or roofing preparation. Doorways, hallways, conservatories, and side paths can all affect what can be used.

Plan for setup and storage

Before hiring, check:

- who is setting it up
- whether assembly is required
- whether there is enough room to store it securely
- whether it needs to be moved during the hire period

Avoid overcomplicating the choice

Bigger is not always better. A simpler, more suitable access option can often be safer and quicker for short-duration jobs.

Safety always comes first

Read the instructions, use equipment only for its intended purpose, and never improvise with unsuitable alternatives. If the job feels beyond your experience level, professional help may be the smarter option.

Final tip

The right access equipment should let you work safely, comfortably, and efficiently. Convenience matters, but stability and suitability matter more.

