

Scaffold

Typical modern scaffolding.

Plaque commemorating [executions](#) at the old Tower Hill scaffold site.

A **scaffold** is a temporary [structure](#) used for [support](#). Originally scaffolds^[1] were made of [wood](#), and [bamboo](#) scaffolds are still used in many parts of the world. In the western world they are now made of [metal](#).

The most common use of scaffolds is to allow work on [buildings](#). Another use of the word was the wooden platforms built for [executions](#). This is now a rare use of the word.

More important people were executed in the [Tower of London](#).

Types of scaffolding

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Wooden & Bamboo Scaffolding: Bamboo scaffolding is more common outside of [North America](#) and Europe. Pre-cut lumber was the most common type of scaffolding until [steel](#), and the fabrication of materials, became much more affordable. Bamboo is more commonly used in Asia where it's favored for strength, flexibility, and eco-friendliness.

Tube & Clamp Scaffolding: This is one of the earliest types of steel scaffolding and consists of two parts, including the tubes and clips, sometimes called 'couples.' The idea is really simple, and one reason why it's so popular is because of the ease in assembly and disassembly. To erect the scaffold, you need to connect tubes together to make long runs and then connect the verticals and horizontals together with clamps built specifically for these tubes.

Systems Scaffolding: Sometimes referred to as *modular scaffolding*, systems scaffolding consists primarily of vertical and horizontal pre-engineered components that connect together in a systematic fashion.

Systems scaffolding is likely the most used type of scaffolding across the globe and there are hundreds of manufacturers, each having specific efficiencies. Some perform well in very highly loaded conditions and others are more suited to smaller repeated scaffold structures.

Cuplock Systems Scaffolding: Commonly made from galvanized steel, cuplock systems scaffolding is popular for its ability to support heavy loads. With cuplocks at every 500mm to 1,000mm, this type of scaffolding creates highly standardized systems that work well for scaffolding designs with repeated patterns.

References

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1. [↑](#) ["SCAFFOLD | meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary"](#). *dictionary.cambridge.org*. Retrieved 2020-10-04.

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