

Access Platforms -v- Scaffold Features, Advantages & Benefits

Cost Effective

Much is made of the cost of hiring powered access compared with scaffold. However, if the time lost in production, deadlines and labour whilst waiting for scaffold to be erected is calculated, the additional cost of powered access will be more than offset by the savings in time. If a project stops for any reason, such as holidays, scaffold remains on hire or further charges are levied for dismantling and re-erection. With powered access the machine can be off hired, thereby stopping all costs immediately.

Speed

Using conventional methods, ie scaffolding, materials have to be delivered and erected. Take as an example a building where all four facades need to be worked on. For scaffolding this means either four erection and dismantling charges or one very large scaffold, which delays the contract and results in expensive downtime. Now, consider powered access as an alternative. A powered access machine is delivered to site at a time convenient to the customer and gets straight to work. Once the first section is finished you simply drive to the next area – you don't even have to bring the machine down to move it! When the work is finished the machine is off hired, collected and taken off site.

Accessibility

A manlift can access places a scaffold cannot get to. With the latest articulated machines we can reach over obstacles, through apertures and even, on some models, below ground level. Our OMME machines will fit through a doorway only 1.1m wide and our smallest scissor lift is only 76cm wide.

Safety (see *Machine Maintenance for more information*)

With first class operator training and the security of dealing with one of the foremost access hire companies you can be sure that you are creating a much safer work environment for your employees. Once connected via a safety harness to a machine's basket, your workers can safely move around your site, as opposed to the many opportunities for a fall while climbing up and down scaffold all day long.

Aesthetics

Despite today's image conscious environment, the appearance of scaffold has not changed. With high profile contracts there is simply no comparison between a building hidden behind ugly scaffolding as opposed to a building displaying a company's craftsmanship for clients and potential clients to see. Powered access allows you to work on a building when required and then move the equipment to take it away or place it out of sight.

Flexibility

With OUR full range of powered access equipment we can supply the machine to meet any application. Our range extends from the smallest personnel lift, which is light and compact enough to fit into a standard elevator, to our largest boom which will allow you to work safely at heights of 43.3m – 140ft.

Security

Much of today's site materials are very expensive. Scaffolding allows any person access to all areas of the building it covers. With powered access however, once work is finished for the day, the machine can be closed down and removed to a secure area, thus denying access to thieves.