Types of Scaffolding - Quick Reference

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Three main groups

- Supported - stands on the ground or a firm base (most common).
- Suspended - hangs from a roof beam or structure above (cradles, swing stages).
- Mobile (rolling) - supported scaffold on wheels, such as aluminium towers.

Common types used in construction

- Single (bricklayer) - one row of standards next to the wall; light brickwork.
- Double (independent) - two rows of standards; free-standing, for heavy masonry and stone.
- Tube and coupler - steel tubes joined with couplers; fits any shape.
- Cuplock (system) - fixed cups on standards take ledgers; fast, strong, tall work.
- Ringlock and kwikstage (system) - modular fixed-node systems for towers and plant.
- H frame (frame) - ready-made frames and cross braces; plaster and paint on walls.
- Aluminium tower (mobile) - light towers 3.2 m to 13.2 m for interiors.
- Suspended - platform hung on ropes for facades, cleaning and painting.
- Cantilever (needle) - supported by beams projecting through the wall; no ground access.
- Trestle - low platform on A-frames for interior finishing.
- Birdcage - grid of standards for wide areas such as ceilings and halls.

Types of scaffolding couplers (clamps)

- Right-angle (double) - joins two tubes at 90 degrees; load bearing.
- Swivel - joins two tubes at any angle; used for braces.
- Sleeve (joint) - joins two tubes end to end.
- Putlog (single) - fixes a putlog or transom to a ledger.
- Girder (beam) - clamps a tube to a steel beam flange.
- Board retaining - holds a toe board to a standard.
- Parallel - joins two tubes side by side.

Scaffolding bracing types

- Facade (face) bracing - diagonals along the outer face; stops sway along the length.
- Ledger bracing - diagonals between standards in the long direction.
- Cross (transverse) bracing - diagonals across the width of the scaffold.
- Plan bracing - horizontal diagonals that keep the layout square.
- Ties - fix the scaffold to the structure; they stop it falling outward.

Indian standards to know

- IS 2750 - steel scaffoldings (specification).
- IS 4014 - steel tubular scaffolding (code of practice).
- IS 3696 - safety code for scaffolds and ladders.

Full guide: namoscaffolding.com/types-of-scaffolding/