



CLIMBING

EPclimbing.com  
*White Paper*

## MAKING CLIMBING ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

→ Save time and money  
in climbing wall construction

# Introduction...

Climbing has transitioned from a leisurely activity to a widespread sport, captivating a diverse audience.

***“Interest in climbing has spiked following the sport’s Tokyo Olympics debut,”***

reported by Senior Sports Editor, Michelle Bruton in Forbes. The thrill of sports climbing is no longer confined by age, gender, or physical limitations, but rather has become a universal fitness trend.

Imagine the potential of turning spaces, such as schools, fitness gyms, institutes, and adventure parks, into dynamic hubs that cater to a varied range of interests by introducing climbing walls. However, building a gym [climbing wall] is still an involved and expensive process.

Despite the global recognition of climbing, there persists a significant challenge – the need for faster and more affordable solutions in this fast-moving world specially for those new to climbing.

**This paper will explore the rising need of climbing for all and propose fast, affordable, and accessible solutions for building climbing walls.**

It will outline design and engineering innovations that will significantly reduce the learning curve, making it easier to incorporate climbing walls into various spaces.

## Summary

1. Climbing: A trend taking off .....	4
2. Climbing benefits everyone .....	5
3. Challenges in Establishing a Climbing Wall .....	8
4. Key Considerations for Installing a Climbing Wall? .....	9
5. Essential walls, our key solution .....	10
6. Standardised model saves time, money and efforts .....	11



1.

# Climbing a trend taking off

## Why is climbing becoming so popular?

Olympics recognition

Adventurous  
+ new experiences

Health advantages

Accessible  
to everyoneNew  
generational trend

Climbing, once a niche sport, has surged in popularity in recent years, and the trend is expected to continue.

A study by Transparency Market Research predicts the global climbing gym market to witness substantial growth, projecting a positive CAGR of 11.4% between 2023 and 2031. The average monthly check-ins at gyms increased by about 7% from 2022 to 2023 globally following the data provided by Rock Gym Pro, a climbing gym management software.

We are in the golden period of climbing gym development, explained by Climbing Business Journal (CBJ), a news portal dedicated to updates and analysis of the climbing industry. **This climbing wave spans across all the continents** with prominent participation from Europe, Asia and USA.

Ghislain Brillet, president of the Union of Climbing Rooms (UDSE), informed La Fabrique Verticale, a platform dedicated to French climbing news, that the number of rooms dedicated to climbing has tripled over the past fifteen years. In other news, La Fabrique also suggested that the climbers in 2022 were three times higher than in 2016, when there were already nearly one million climbers.

There are 160,000 climbing licences in France. Meanwhile, Spanish climbing and mountaineering licences grew 22% from two years ago, following EFE's 2023 report which is one of the leading news agencies of Spain. The Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) claimed in 2021 that around one million people in the UK regularly climb indoors.

Similarly, Asian countries like China, Japan, India, Korea and Indonesia, are seeing rapid rise in climbing. In 2019, around 3.2 million (2.5% of Japanese population) reportedly climbed, as per the nation's Physical Activity databook.

Age

Social  
status

Ethnicity

2.

# Climbing benefits everyone

Climbing is a sport that transcends physical boundaries and enriches lives. It is a sport that offers a dynamic full-body workout, enhances problem-solving skills, and fosters a sense of community for enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. Additionally, research suggests that it alleviates depression and acts as a therapy too.

**Climbing benefits everyone, regardless of age, social status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or disability.**

Regular climbing sessions offer a wide range of valuable opportunities to improve well-being and self-awareness. They provide experiences of a cooperative and inclusive community centred around shared joy, focus, challenges, and relaxation.

**"A sport that is open to almost everyone,"**

Guillermo Peregrin, a blind climber tells EFE, one of the leading news agencies of Spain.

Climbing breaks down entry barriers, welcoming individuals of all fitness and experience levels. Climbing brings the opportunity to figure out new and creative ways of doing things. For example, if you are not tall enough to reach a hold, you can use your flexibility to find a different way to make it to the top. There are no set rules, so you can always climb in a way that works for you.



Gender

Disability

**"Creativity and diversity is an intrinsic part of climbing in itself"**

Sexual  
orientation

## Climbing for youth

Climbing Coach Mike Rougeux from Bend Endurance Academy said,

***“Climbing fosters resilience and confidence in youth. It also challenges problem-solving skills and encourages learning from failures.”***



**Schools:** As per UK Climbing, UK's leading climbing news media, having a climbing wall in a school not only boosts children's climbing grade, there are amazing benefits to health, academic performance, and social skills as well.

**Universities, colleges, institutes:** As a newly popular physical exercise, rock climbing has a significantly positive impact on the physical fitness among college students, based on a research conducted in China.



## Climbing for differently abled

A study led by Dr. Elissa Zakrasek, a physical medicine and rehabilitation doctor at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in California, suggested therapeutic benefits of adaptive rope climbing to people with disabilities (with additional gains in community connection, confidence building, and muscle strengthening). Another research highlights that climbing exercises help children with cerebral palsy function better.

Throughout the past decade, climbing has evolved into an inclusive sport, overcoming gender, age, race, geographical, socio-economic, and disability stereotypes. The following news reports by leading publishers and newsportals, underscore the universal acceptance of climbing by diverse communities:

- Most women are now in the top 100 climbers of the world
- No longer a sport dominated by white Americans
- Climbing is the favourite hobby among women and LGBTQ communities in China
- Climbing has a vibrant community of participants in their 60s and 70s
- Climbing is the second most requested sport after football in schools in France
- International Federation of Sport Climbing has crossed the milestone of 100 member countries, participating in climbing competitions
- Paraclimbing to take a big leap with focused improvements for paraclimbers
- Climbing attracts many individuals with autism due to its alignment with their intense, focused interests, meticulous activity logging, technical skill acquisition, and unwavering dedication

## Climbing is...

multi-generational

multi-dimensional

multi-ability

multi-purpose

As you can see, climbing offers benefits that extend beyond the youth to adults of all ages and abilities.

## The new mainstream fitness and recreational activity

Industry experts and leading gear manufacturers echo this sentiment, ***“climbing is more than a trend.”*** Positioned to become a mainstream fitness and recreational activity, climbing boasts business advantages too.

As you can see climbing acts as an engaging and unique offering that attracts a diverse clientele. Climbing spaces can be transformed into a one-stop-fitness destination offering HIIT classes, yoga studios, workout equipment, kids and party areas, fancy locker rooms, birthdays, and corporate events.

The evolving landscape emphasises the necessity for climbing walls that cater to a diverse audience, aligning with the fast-growing industry. The call is for solutions that provide faster and adaptable installations with cost-effectiveness.

***The need of climbing walls has become more important than ever***



3.

## Challenges in establishing a climbing wall



### Choosing a climbing wall manufacturer:

Another part of study is background research of the wall manufacturer. In the expanding market with a surge in new entrants, verifying available products and their worth is a struggle.

Installing a climbing wall, especially for someone new to climbing, comes with immense efforts and considerations. Here's an overview of the challenges:

#### 1. Financial commitment

Opening a Rock Climbing Gym requires a significant amount of capital investment upfront, which includes: **Initial Investment:** The upfront expenses, encompassing construction, permissions, safety features, designs and installations, can pose a substantial financial challenge.

**Ongoing Costs:** Holds replacement, route setting, wall maintenance, regular inspections and potential repairs contribute to additional, recurring expenses eg.

#### 2. Need of design expertise

Designing a climbing wall with diverse terrains for different climbing styles that caters to everyone, introduces complexity, especially when integrating overhangs, roofs, volumes and slabs. This demands prior knowledge and heavy designing skills.

#### 3. Time unpredictability

As aptly stated by CBJ, «time is money» when it comes to starting a climbing gym. The installation process, spanning several weeks or months, impacts the overall timeline for opening a climbing wall. Considering multiple factors during each phase of installation, time constraints keep varying.

#### 4. Demands prior research and efforts

**Self-study:** Climbing wall technology, design features or safety considerations demands prior knowledge of the climbing wall installation; gaining this data is usually hard and time-consuming for novices.

**Site Preparations:** Assessment of the property whether the structure can support the weight and stress of the climbing wall requires several permissions, engineering checks and good relationship with local engineers, property owners and designers.

4.

## Key Considerations for installing a climbing wall

Here are the essential features to consider when constructing a climbing wall in your premises, whether it's for schools, colleges, institutes, parks, or fitness gyms.

#### • Modular and Space-Efficient Construction:

- Optimal designs for smaller spaces.
- Ensures climbing facilities fit seamlessly into existing structures without compromising safety or aesthetics.

#### • User-friendly:

- Simplified solutions for beginners.
- User-friendly technology that ensures accessibility without specialised knowledge.

#### • Reduction in Design Time:

- Significantly reduces time spent on selecting and customising climbing wall features.
- Promotes quicker decision-making, expediting the overall installation process.

#### • Efficient Construction Timeline:

- Mitigates time through streamlined engineering and production of panels, volumes and wooden beams.
- Minimise structure modifications, allowing climbing facilities to open sooner.

#### • Efficient Installation Process:

Streamlined installation with fewer resources

#### • Adaptability to Different Settings:

- Versatile walls adaptable to various environments.
- Fits seamlessly into schools, fitness gyms, and recreational facilities..

#### • Cost Savings:

Inherent cost savings by reducing time and resources throughout the installation process.

#### • Reputed company:

- Backed by decades of **experience and certifications**.
- Ensures reliability and excellence in diverse climbing wall solutions.



In response to the hardships faced with climbing wall installations, **“Essential Walls”** emerge as a transformative solution.

5.

# Essential walls our key solution

EP Climbing Walls offers its **best all-in-one product**, also called as Essential walls, to optimise space and time for your schools, gyms or sports centres. Choose from the pool of standards and a highly efficient climbing wall design will be prepared in just one day. The product offers three standardised wall sizes (small, medium, large) and five volume options, providing flexibility and ease of customization.

This is a one of its kind product in the market that offers **standard**, pre-designed, pre-engineered walls

«Essential Walls is created for those who simply want to climb. Imagine a gym owner seeking an exciting addition **to attract clients**. They have limited space and are unwilling to change the gym layout. They prefer **quick and hassle-free** options. Essential Walls is the answer here. It's tailored for customers new to climbing walls, unaware of the complexities of installation or maintenance.

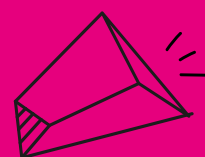
If you're short on time and don't want to dive into specific designs, our focus is on **maximizing your space** with an optimized solution.”

*Benoit Beylier, CEO EP Climbing*

Essential Walls makes life easy!



pick  
a wall size



select your  
preferred volume



decide on the  
climbing lines

And witness the creation of your wall layout in less than 24 hours. Despite this breakthrough process, they are user-friendly, even to individuals new to climbing.

save  
money

easy  
to use

save  
time

optimise  
space





6.

# Standardised model saves time, money, efforts

Essential Walls or **standard products** not only streamlines the climbing wall experience but adds value to the customer. Each step in the climbing wall installation lifecycle is refined, providing an easy-to-follow journey for the customer.

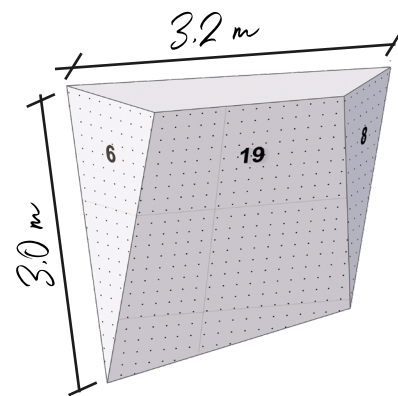
## Easy start

The design process is reduced to the essentials:

### 1. Define dimensions of your wall

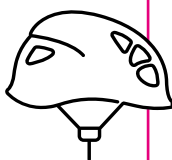
Wall size	Example of dimensions (h x w) in meters	Climbing Lines	Space required
Small	6 x 4.8	4	Reduced space up to 40 sqm
Medium	7.2 x 12	10	Space up to 100 sqm
Large	8.4 x 18	15	Bigger area up to 200 sqm

### 2. Decide the number of climbing lines. Select your volumes and colours



### 3. After the design and quotation is finalised, choose equipment

auto-belay, holds, harnesses, helmets etc



### Optimised Design Phase

The use of standard volumes and dimensions reduces the design process to minimum 24 hours, drastically cutting lead time. This translates into a substantial 20% cost reduction compared to regular design phases.

*Study Phase involves site checking of customer for strength of the structure on which the wall will be installed (typically requires a week or less)*

### Turnkey Engineering Solution

With pre-engineered standard volumes, Essential Walls embraces prefabrication which is one potential way to assist the development of construction and increase value for money. Standardised wood beams reduce wastage and increase reusing which further decrease costs of the installation process.

### Effort less Installation process

Installation overload is mitigated with only one primary structure and no secondary structure. With standardised wood beams and pre-assembled volumes installation can be completed with just two labourers in 2-4 weeks. Additionally, with familiar components, field teams can work more quickly and productively, reducing the overall installation time.

### Less Maintenance Checks

Maintenance routines are shortened to only routine checks of True Blues (auto-belay devices), the only moving parts. This reduces the need for extensive repairs and expenses.

### Easy before, during and the after



## Conclusions...

Essential Walls is the ideal solution for customers seeking to install climbing walls that accommodate a diverse audience, regardless of age, gender, abilities, or strength levels. In a world where the demand for climbing is rapidly increasing, where individuals simply want to climb and stay on trend, Essential Walls are perfect.

With Essential Walls, customers can enjoy faster installations without the need for specialised knowledge or expertise. **This product is designed to be accessible to everyone in less time, money, and effort.**

### About the company



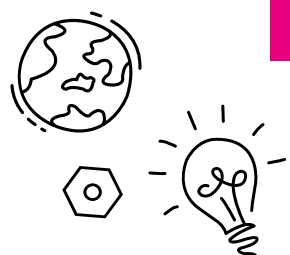
Founded in 1986, EP Climbing (formerly Entre-prises) is a pioneer in the climbing wall industry, developing custom solutions for climbing and leisure experiences worldwide.

As a part of the ABEO group and a leader in climbing wall innovations, EP is the official supplier for the Paris Olympics 2024 and international climbing competitions.



For more  
information  
visit

[epclimbing.com](https://epclimbing.com)



## EP Climbing's other solutions for everyone

### | CHN William Lennox

We built an inclusive climbing wall for a Belgium Neurological Hospital. Owner of the climbing wall at the hospital noted, "The aim of the wall was to offer additional physical activity for patient rehabilitation with climbing as physical activity. We wanted to make the wall as inclusive as possible and EP Climbing helped us in our objective."



### | Le Fayet

This climbing wall, spanning 204 square meters, was installed in 2021 within a school gymnasium in France through a public tender process. The wall features both rope and boulder sections, standing at a height of 8.9 meters and with a width of 20 meters. Utilizing MozaiK technology, this climbing facility is designed to accommodate climbers of all skill levels and profiles







## CLIMBING

EP France +33 (0)4 76 08 53 76

EP Spain +34 637 316 273

EP UK +44 (0) 7921 037898

EP Asia +62 817 6943 718

EP USA +1 (0) 541 388 5463

[info@epclimbing.com](mailto:info@epclimbing.com)

[www.epclimbing.com](http://www.epclimbing.com)