

# **DON'T SLIP UP ON SAFETY**

# **Watch Your Step**

According to the National Safety Council, these are some of the most common locations for falls:

- Stairs
- Doorways
- Ramps
- Cluttered hallways
- Areas with heavy traffic
- Areas prone to wetness or spills
- Unstable work surfaces



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### Slip, Trip, and Fall Safety

Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common causes of injury in the workplace, at home and in your community. However, simple safety and prevention methods can help reduce the risk of injury and even death.

## **Slip & Trip Prevention Tips**

Slips are most likely to occur due to a wet floor, loose or unanchored floor mats, and flooring with varying amounts of traction. Trips often happen because of clutter, poor lighting, uncovered cords or cables, and uneven surfaces. Following these safety tips can help prevent injury:

- Clean up spills immediately.
- Place "wet floor" warning signs if there is a spill or if the floor remains wet after clean-up.
- Keep walkways and hallways free of clutter and obstacles.
- Keep filing cabinets and drawers closed when not in use.
- Cover cords or cables in the walkway.
- Replace light bulbs promptly.
- Make sure walkways, hallways, staircases, dock areas, entrances and exits are well lit.
- Install and secure mats and carpets to ensure they remain flat.
- Remove small throw rugs.

#### **Business Owners Best Practices**

Business owners are encouraged to pay close attention to slip, trip and fall dangers and take preventative measures to ensure the safety of employees and patrons.

- **Seasonal Safety** Hazards can change with the seasons. Make sure the parking lot and walkways are even and clear throughout the year. Remove fallen leaves, snow and ice. Treat winter conditions with salt and sand as necessary. Post signage warning of falling ice and snow or slippery surfaces. Paint and clearly mark curb stops.
- Plan Ahead Create a checklist for daily housekeeping tasks to reduce risk of injury.
- Routine Inspection Conduct periodic walkthroughs of the property to look for areas of risk and ensure property safety measures are in place.
- In Case of Incident Create a standard incident report to have on hand if needed. A checklist of items should include: names of those involved, witness names and accounts, photographs of incident location. Installing cameras in high traffic areas can also be useful in case of an incident.

### **Look Out for Yourself**

While you can't always control the environment you are in, you can help avoid a slip, trip or fall by keeping the following in mind:

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Walk at a comfortable pace.
- Make wide turns when walking around corners.
- Use handrails on the stairs.
- Wear proper footwear for the task at hand; those with good support and slip-resistant soles are best.
- Clean off the bottom of your shoes if they are wet or muddy.
- Upon entering a dark room, turn on the light immediately.



