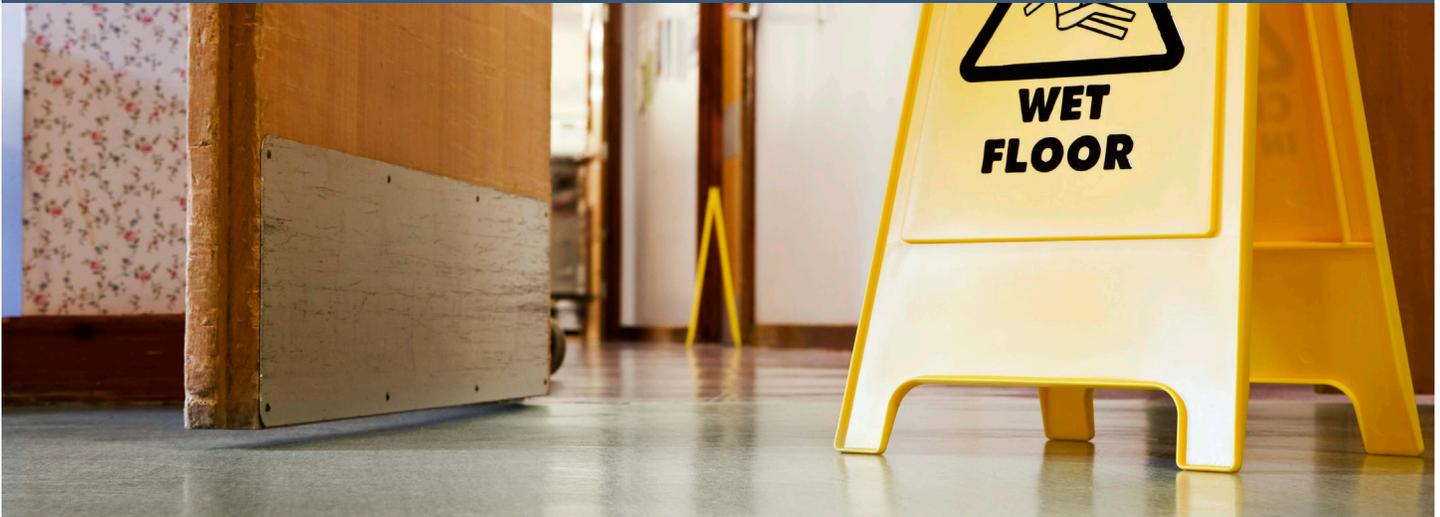


## TECHNICAL INFORMATION PAPER SERIES: SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS



## FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO HELP AVOID SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS.

Slips, trips and falls are among the most prevalent causes of serious injury. Not only can they lead to a lifetime of pain and discomfort, but they also can exact high costs in insurance claims and time off the job. Yet, this is one of the easiest types of injuries to help prevent.

Follow these best practices to develop and implement sound loss prevention measures.

### ARE THERE IRREGULARITIES IN THE WALKING SURFACES?

- Check for floor surface cracks, holes or bumps
- Check for floor mats and runners that are damaged, rolled or folded
- Check for pot holes, unmarked curbs, ramps, cracks and uneven sidewalks

### ARE THERE ANY SLICK AREAS TO AVOID?

- Contaminants on the floor, such as food, grease, bodily fluids and water
- Inherently wet areas, such as showers, bathrooms and kitchens
- Leaking or damaged equipment
- Areas exposed to adverse weather, such as stairs or entranceways
- Areas of poor drainage (pipes and drains) and adverse weather conditions (ice, snow or rain)

### CAN PEOPLE EASILY SEE WHERE THEY'RE GOING?

- Adequate lighting inside or outside

### COULD STRUCTURAL ELEVATIONS OR AIDS BE A PROBLEM?

- Stairs, steps or ramps
- Stepstools and ladders

### HELP MAKE YOUR FACILITY A SAFER ZONE WITH THESE TIPS

#### Maintenance and improvement

- Properly clean and dry floors
- Promptly repair uneven or damaged walking surfaces
- Check equipment regularly and maintain to prevent leaks
- Proper floor surfacing (abrasive or non-slip tile) in inherently wet areas
- Replace worn or damaged mats
- Keep ladders available and in good condition

#### Preventive aids

- Use appropriate non-slip floor mats and place them properly
- Install proper surfacing (abrasive or non-slip tile) in inherently wet areas
- Use retractable cords, cord holders or covers
- Use slip-resistant stair treads and nosing
- Install hose holders or winders outdoors

#### Clear signage and visibility

- Use “wet floor” signs or barriers to warn of wet conditions
- Create visible cues for changes in elevation
- Ensure adequate lighting: report low light level areas or light bulbs that need to be changed

### USE A DOSE OF PREVENTION IN WORK PRACTICES

Put these tips into practice to help reduce the potential for slip-and-fall incidents.

#### Inspect

- Examine floor surfaces regularly for potential hazards
- Follow proper or special work procedures for wet areas; Report and alert
- Slip/trip hazards should be immediately reported; alert employees and visitors
- Use weather warning indicators during winter to alert the public and staff to snow and ice



#### Organize, repair and maintain

- Schedule floor maintenance for non-peak times
- Keep work areas organized, eliminating clutter
- Properly dispose of debris
- Store tools and equipment properly when not in use

#### Learn

- Participate in accident or injury prevention investigations to prevent recurrences



## ADDED PRECAUTIONS THAT CAN HELP PREVENT CLAIMS

Add these steps to reduce your exposure to slip, trip and fall claims.

- Periodic, formal documented inspection of the premises by the insured
- A daily walk around areas to determine if there are new risk factors
- A formal complaint-handling procedure with these mandatories:
  - » Handled by someone with authority to take action
  - » A clear written record of time and day the complaint was received
  - » A formal action plan with a priority system so that urgent matters are taken care of first
  - » A follow-up to confirm that corrective action was taken
  - » A clear written record of any corrective action taken, with the date and time of resolution
  - » Records should be kept indefinitely

## LEARN MORE.

For more information, contact your Risk Engineering consultant from The Hartford today or visit us online at [thehartford.com/riskengineering](http://thehartford.com/riskengineering).

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