



Minimizing Slips, Trips and Falls

Presented by
ISSA
Lincolnwood, IL
www.issa.com

Business owners, operators and employers all have a vested interest in reducing the incidence of slips, trips and falls. The following proactive measures are largely excerpted from a checklist developed by the National Floor Safety Institute located in Bedford, TX, entitled “OSHA Self-Inspection Checklist—Walking and Working Surface Requirements” and are designed to help minimize slip and fall incidents.

Housekeeping

- Establish written procedures
- Keep all work environment, passageways, storerooms, and service rooms clean, sanitary and orderly.
- Keep workroom floors clean and dry. Where wet processes are used, provide drainage, false floors, platforms, mats, etc.
- Keep floors, working areas, and passageways free of protruding nails, splinters, holes, loose boards, or tiles.
- Periodically inspect the walking areas to check for foreign objects, water, and other items that may create falling hazards. Maintain records of your inspection activities including the area inspected, conditions observed, who conducted the inspection, and the time.
- Practice sound recordkeeping by maintaining a cleaning log, including products used, surfaces cleaned, when and by whom tasks are performed, and cleaning procedures.

Employee Training

- Train employees about established safety procedures, cleaning operations, and inspection procedures.
- Provide employees with appropriate product usage training.

- Post written slip and fall prevention and accident handling policies in conspicuous places.
- Keep records of all employee training including individuals trained, subject matter covered, training materials, and date of training.
- Consider a reward system for employees who promote positive safety procedures.

Flooring and Stairs

- Select appropriate flooring materials for the anticipated conditions of use. Select flooring with a SCOF of greater than 0.5 for “high risk” areas.
- Periodic monitoring of slip resistance.
- Inspect flooring surfaces for holes, chips or other trip hazards and make necessary repairs.
- Use non-slip stair treads and landings with abrasive stair nosing.

Matting

- Use absorbent walk-off mats at all doorways that lead to the outside and in other areas where it is foreseeable that slippery conditions exist.
- Use low profile, highly abrasive matting in areas where grease and oil are present.
- Thick mats should be constructed with beveled edges to minimize tripping.
- Use mats with a non-slip backing on wet surfaces.
- Adequately secured against movement.

Cleaning Chemicals

- Maintain “high-risk” areas using a traction enhancing cleaner.
- Select a floor cleaner that enhances slip-resistance and does not leave a slippery soap residue. Rinse thoroughly with clean water after use.
- Select a commercial floor polish with SCOF of 0.5 or higher. Select higher SCOF products for “high risk” areas.

Footwear

- Provide employees with access to slip-resistant footwear and make it a job requirement, when appropriate (ASTM F695).
- Consider foreseeable conditions in the walking/working environment

- Footwear traction
 - Tread design
 - Tread hardness
 - Oil resistance
 - Chemical resistance
 - Heat resistance
 - Shape of sole/heel

Hazard Identification

- Once hazards are identified (i.e., a spill on the floor), post caution signs or barriers preventing access to the spill.
- Post caution signs while mopping.
- Periodically inspect entryways and mop up tracked in rain, snow and debris.
- Eliminate chronic hazards by implementing design changes and conducting frequent equipment inspection and servicing.
- Barricade doors of single entrance rooms when wet mopping.