

Preventing Slip, Trips and Falls

A common problem

Slip, trip, and fall incidents can involve individuals in all occupations and industries. They are second to vehicle accidents as the primary cause of accidental death. Water on the floor, uneven walkways and icy conditions are the most common causes.

In order to prevent these types of accidents at your facility, the following set of safety measures should be a vigilant part of your daily observations.

- If you lease your building, determine your responsibilities for clearing parking areas and walkways of snow and debris. Even though the building owner may be responsible for clearing these areas, you should be prepared to take proactive measures to ensure the safety of your visitors.
- Inspect inside and out for potential tripping hazards and remove any that you find immediately.
- If you discover a defect in your sidewalk or parking area, repair any promptly and temporarily divert pedestrian traffic away from the area.
- Secure entryway rugs so they do not slip. Replace any rug that starts to curl-up or unravel.
- Keep items such boxes, extension cords, loose carpeting, and other items out of walking paths and exit routes.
- Maintain proper lighting in all areas and replace burnt bulbs promptly.
- Place mats under water fountains and near coffee stations.
- Use “Wet Floor” signs when weather is inclement or during cleaning.
- Implement a wet/snowy weather action plan:
 1. Be prepared with additional dry mats for entryways when it rains or snows.
 2. Clear snow from walkways promptly.
 3. Remind employees to use caution while entering and leaving the facility during inclement weather.
 4. Be on the lookout for “black ice” during falling temperatures.
 5. Apply ice melting products to walkways frequently.
 6. Position gutter downspouts to empty grassy areas and away from walkways.
 7. Document cleaning and inspection efforts.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: fwcruminsurance.com