



SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



SLIP & TRIP PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES

Slip and trip accidents in the workplace can lead to injuries, lost productivity, agency costs, and pain for the employee. Implementing best practices to control slip accidents is essential for maintaining a safe work environment. Below are key strategies:

Conduct a Risk Assessment

- Evaluate the workplace to identify areas prone to slips, such as entryways, kitchens, bathrooms, slop sinks, or areas with heavy foot traffic.
- Identify areas where storage is on the floor, even temporarily or seasonally. Add or designate storage areas.
- Consider flooring types, lighting, weather conditions, and employee activities that may increase slip and trip risks.
- Comprehensively investigate and analyze slip and trip accidents, injuries, and near-misses.

Improve Walking and Working Surfaces at the Workplace

- Use slip-resistant flooring materials in high-risk areas, such as rubber mats or textured tiles.
- Apply anti-slip coatings or treatments to existing floors where necessary.
- Promptly fix cracks, uneven surfaces, or loose tiles to prevent tripping hazards.
- Ensure all areas, especially staircases and walkways, are well-lit to improve visibility.
- Install backup lighting systems to maintain visibility during power outages.

Maintain Clean, Dry, and Organized Floors

- Implement regular inspection and cleaning schedules to ensure spills, debris, objects, and contaminants are removed quickly. Monthly is suggested for most areas, though high-hazard areas or times may require more frequent inspections and cleaning.
- Avoid using overly slippery cleaning agents; ensure cleaning methods align with floor material specifications.
- Use temporary “Wet Floor” warning signs immediately after cleaning or when spills occur. Consider permanent warning signs for areas prone to slippery conditions, such as near sinks.

Take Additional Precautions During Inclement Weather

- Use mats at entrances to reduce water tracking during rain or snow. Install umbrella stands and coat racks to minimize dripping water indoors.
- Monitor weather forecasts and pre-position mats, ice melt, and other anti-slip and trip supplies.
- Maintain logs for when snow removal and salt application were done.

Train Employees

- Develop policies and guidelines for acceptable footwear based on job roles, workplace, and environmental conditions.
- Educate employees on footwear characteristics such as sole pattern and materials, upper construction and support, and fitting.
- Awareness of slip and trip hazards and prevention techniques, including walking carefully and at an appropriate pace, not leaving drawers open, or boxes on the floor, and not carrying large objects that prevent seeing the floor ahead.
- Reporting of slip and trip hazards with a complete description of all the conditions and factors that may have contributed to the incident.

MSI Resources

MSI offers resources to assist your agency in preventing slips and trip injuries:

- [MSI Forms and Documents](#)
 - Slip and Trip Investigative Worksheet
 - Snow, Salt, & Ice Removal Log
 - Facility Hazard Identification Inspection Checklists
- [MSI Videos](#)
 - Smart Moves to Avoid Falling Down
 - Entering and Exit Trucks
 - Investigating Slip and Trip Injuries
- [MSI LIVE](#)
 - Ladder Safety/Walking Working Surfaces
- [MSI NOW](#)
 - Slips, Trips, and Falls Awareness

By implementing these best practices, organizations can significantly reduce the risk of slip and trip accidents.

