

# Slip and fall hazards



## Please route to:

- Owner
- General manager
- Sales manager
- Service manager
- Office manager

One of the greatest workers' compensation and liability exposures confronting many companies across the country is slip and fall incidents. A fall can result in the loss of a valued employee or the filing of a third-party lawsuit. Many of these incidents can be prevented.

### What is the problem?

Two of the most common causes of slips and falls are a slippery walking surface, either by design (a waxed tile floor) or by contamination (ice, oil, grease, etc.); or an uneven walking surface (cracks, holes, stairs, etc.). These conditions can be avoided or controlled, preventing many slips and falls.

High traffic areas for employees and customers should be evaluated closely for unsafe walking conditions. These areas include parking lots, customer service drives, customer waiting areas, restrooms and service bays. All identified hazards should be taken care of immediately.

### High traffic areas

- Stairs should be in good condition, of equal height and well-lit.
- Stairs with three or more steps should be equipped with a handrail.
- Curbs should be highlighted to warn of the change in height.
- Exterior lighting should be adequate and checked frequently for malfunctioning fixtures.
- Lot surfaces should be in good repair and free of holes and other obstructions.
- Implement a self-inspection program to identify hazards and assure that necessary repairs are made promptly.
- All inspection programs should be documented and include follow-up procedures.
- Redirect downspouts away from walkways, as they can create a slip hazard during winter and summer months.
- Floor spills should never be left unattended (especially in customer traffic areas) and should be cleaned up immediately. Post a "Caution – Wet Floor" sign.
- An oil absorbing material should be available for use on oil spills.

- All entrances into the building should have mats or rugs to help keep the floors clean and dry, especially during inclement weather.
- Entrances should be free of obstructions, including promotional displays.
- Aisles and hallways should also be free of obstruction.

### Snow and ice removal

- Be prepared in advance for snow and ice.
- A snow and ice removal program should be developed and implemented. A single person should be assigned responsibility for monitoring and coordinating the effort.
- Have appropriate equipment, tools and supplies ready for use by internal personnel.
- Professional snow removal companies should be contracted/retained in advance of cold weather.
- Snow removal service should include regular checks on location, 24-hour and on-call capabilities.
- Record pertinent data on a snow and ice removal log.
- Allow sufficient time for treatment to take full effect.
- Be aware that high piles of snow can reduce visibility in vehicle traffic areas, especially at corners.
- In the event of a slip or fall, injured persons should be attended to immediately.
- Accident/incident investigations should be conducted immediately.

Learn more about how you can evaluate and assess the potential risk of slip, trip and falls on your property with our slip, trip and fall assessment guide: <https://bit.ly/3VAidXS>.

## For More Information

For more information about Zurich's products and Risk Engineering services, contact your Zurich representative, visit [zurichna.com/dealer](http://zurichna.com/dealer) or call us at 1-800-840-8842 ext. 7449.

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