

Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention

Causes of Entry Hazards

- Entrants tracking in water or contaminants from outside
- A change in floor surfaces that reduces traction
- An uneven entrance mat
- Entrants being focused on where they are going next rather than looking for hazards

These causes can lead to slips, trips and falls, which can result in severe injuries. However, these incidents are preventable by taking precautions.

Entrance Mat Length Criteria in Various Weather



Dry: 6 – 8 Steps



Rain: 8 – 10 Steps



Snow: 10 – 12 Steps

Employee Responsibilities

- Take responsibility.** If you see a hazard, report it and ensure that it is corrected rather than leaving it.
- Make sure controls are in place.** Entry points require certain controls, such as absorbent mats of sufficient length, signs and/or attendants.
- Perform any necessary housekeeping.** Do not allow clutter to accumulate.
- Use “wet floor” signs as needed.**

Housekeeping

- Housekeeping is one of the most important practices for preventing slips, trips and falls. Obstacles and clutter are major causes of trips, and floor wetness and contaminants are major causes of slips.
- Keep walkways and aisles clear.
- Remove obstacles and anything that is not necessary.
- Do not allow clutter or trash to accumulate. Keep cords neat and away from areas where people may step.
- Keep floors as clean and dry as possible.
- Minimize dust.
- Follow your organization’s cleaning guidelines.

Employer Responsibilities

- Provide mats for entryways and secure them
- Maintain floors
- Ensure regular inspections are performed





Spill Response

- ✔ Clean spills promptly (or report them, if applicable).
- ✔ If chemical spills are possible, know how to respond and where the appropriate Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are.
- ✔ Know where wet floor signs are located and use them to warn others of spills. Remove them once the spill is cleaned.

Storage

- ✔ Store equipment and materials properly when not in use.
- ✔ Secure items so they will not fall.
- ✔ Keep storage areas clean and free of clutter.

General Slip/Fall Controls

- ✔ Maintain floors and walkways, and fix cracks, holes and uneven surfaces.
- ✔ Provide adequate lighting.
- ✔ Provide water-absorbent mats at known slick areas and entryways.
- ✔ Properly construct stairs and provide adequate handrails.
- ✔ Control discharge of liquids or materials on the floor with drainage or a change in processes.

Industry-Specific Slip/Fall Controls

- ✔ **Restaurant Kitchens:** Use specialized flooring that is non-slip and rubber mats in dishwashing areas.
- ✔ **Food Manufacturing Plants:** Supply mats next to foot baths.
- ✔ **Office Environments:** Place absorbent mats at entrances and in front of ice machines.
- ✔ **Machine Shops:** Place drip pans under hydraulic or coolant reservoirs.
- ✔ **Manufacturing:** Have cat litter readily available to clean up oily spills.

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