

Target Keyword: How to Prevent On-the-Job Slips and Falls
Word Count: 731
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Slips and falls in the workplace can result in lost productivity and lowered morale. It could also require an employee to take time off from work if he or she suffers a serious injury. Knowing how to prevent on-the-job slips and falls is important if you are to reduce the odds of this happening in your workplace.

Slippery Surfaces

One of the leading causes of slips and falls in the workplace is slippery surfaces. This can happen after a floor has been mopped or whenever it is raining outside. Slippery floors can also be caused whenever items are spilled on them and not cleaned up right away. In order to prevent falls on slippery surfaces, here are a few things you should consider:

- Provide carpeted mats near your entryway for workers to wipe their feet on whenever it is raining
- Instruct employees to use wet floor signs whenever they are mopping or cleaning up spills
- Have the right cleaning products and equipment on hand for mopping up spills as soon as they occur

Poor Visibility

People can sometimes slip and fall whenever poor lighting conditions make it difficult for them to see. This is especially true on stairs, as it can be easy to miss one if you are unable to see it. If your business operates at night, you should not overlook the importance of having your parking lot and entryways be well lit, since workers could also fall coming and going from their vehicles. When considering how to prevent on-the-job slips and falls due to poor lighting, here are some things to think about:

- Have plenty of spare light bulbs on hand so that you can replace one as soon as it burns out
- When possible, caution employees against walking in poorly lit areas to reduce the odds of them falling
- Check lighting often to make sure it is working properly, and have any malfunctioning fixtures repaired as soon as possible.

- Have a generator available in the event of a power outage. If this isn't possible, make sure there are plenty of flashlights at each workstation for employees to use during this time.

Walking Surface in Poor Condition

When discussing how to prevent on-the-job slips and falls, the condition of floors and walkways should not be overlooked. Floors that are uneven or have weak spots in them could cause workers to fall if they step on them the wrong way. Likewise, parking lots and sidewalks with broken pavement, loose gravel, or debris might also increase the risk of one falling. In order to prevent these types of falls, you'll need to:

- Regularly inspect floors and walkways to make sure they are in good repair and fix as needed. Reroute traffic if need be.
- Keep debris such as leaves off of sidewalks and out of parking lots
- Make sure potholes or broken pavement are marked with safety cones or tape
- Have crosswalks clearly marked so as to prevent employees from traveling on broken pavement

Ice and Snow

You'll need to think about how to prevent on-the-job slips and falls even more during the winter. That's because ice and snow could cause an otherwise surefooted person to fall and suffer an injury. Slips from ice and snow can happen indoors or out, as this matter can be tracked inside and make floors dangerous to walk on. Before harsh weather arrives, you'll need to take certain precautions including:

- Contracting with a snow removal company to clear your sidewalks and parking lots
- Having plenty of salt and ice removal products on hand to use between clearings
- Making sure your entry rugs are clean and dry. You may need to have them cleaned and replaced more often during inclement weather

Wearing the Proper Footwear

If your workers do a great deal of standing or walking, they should be required to wear shoes with non-slip soles on them. Those who regularly climb ladders or

stairs should not wear high heels or flip-flops. Make it a company policy for employees to wear the proper footwear, and then enforce it for the safety of everyone concerned.

Knowing how to prevent on-the-job slips and falls is essential for any business manager. By taking a few simple precautions, you can ensure the safety of your workers, which will help your day-to-day operations flow more smoothly.