

# Slips and Trips

## Toolbox Talk



# Slips and Trips

Slips and Trips are the most frequent cause of injury in the workplace. Over a third of all accidents have to do with slipping or tripping.

Slips usually take place in spaces where dust or liquids line the floor. Both dusts from cement, sawdust or sand as well as liquids like oil, water and polishes can make a surface slippery. Objects on the floor where they do not belong can cause people working there to trip.



# Risks of Slips and Trips

Slippery surfaces or tripping hazards on the work floor can lead to a variety of risks including:

- Risk of permanent injuries
- Risk of concussion
- Risk of broken bones

And the consequences following those risks like:

- Loss of personnel
- Medical rehabilitation
- Personnel becoming less mobile

# Laws say:

## **The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSW Act)**

Employers are required to ensure the health and safety of all employees and anyone who may be affected by their work, so far as is reasonably practicable. This includes taking steps to control risks regarding slips and trips.

Employees have a duty to not put themselves or others in danger and must use all safety equipment provided.

## **The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999**

Employers are required to assess risks (including risks regarding slips and trips) and take action to address them.

## **The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992**

Requires floors to be suitable, in good condition and free from obstructions so people are able to move around safely.

**The European Framework Directive 89/331/EC with its amendments** quotes “The floors of rooms must have no dangerous bumps, holes or slopes and must be fixed, stable and not slippery.

# How to prevent Slipping

- Use anti slip surfaces, like:
  - Anti slip floor tapes
  - Steps
  - Plates
  - Profiles
  - Mats
- Maintain your buildings and machinery
  - Fix leaks
  - Minimize spillages
  - Clean contaminated surfaces as quick as possible
  - Do not let personnel walk on contaminated surfaces
- Use the right footwear
  - Use slip-resistant footwear if necessary
  - Make sure the right footwear is available to all



# How to prevent Tripping

- Store materials in a safe place
  - Plan walking routes
  - Put away materials if they are no longer in use
  - Keep walkways and work areas clear of obstructions
- Check for problems on a regular basis
  - Report loose, uneven or broken flooring
  - Report obstacles
  - Get problems fixed as soon as possible
- Make sure people can see where they are going
  - Ensure there is plenty of light (daylight or artificial light)
  - Install lights in the floor/walkways when necessary

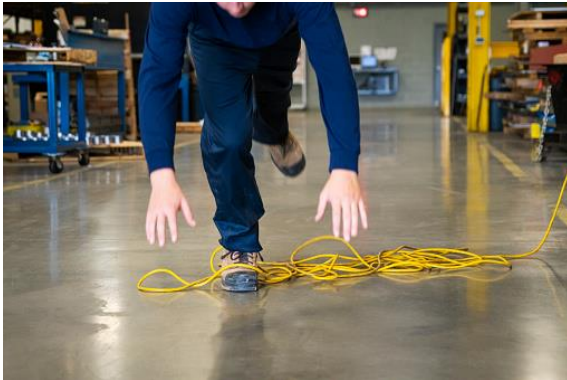


# What can employees do?

- Report near misses or accidents as soon as possible
- Put away materials that you are not using
- Keep your workspace tidy
- Use and wear the PPE you are given (including the right footwear)
- Clean up a spillage/trip hazard when you see one

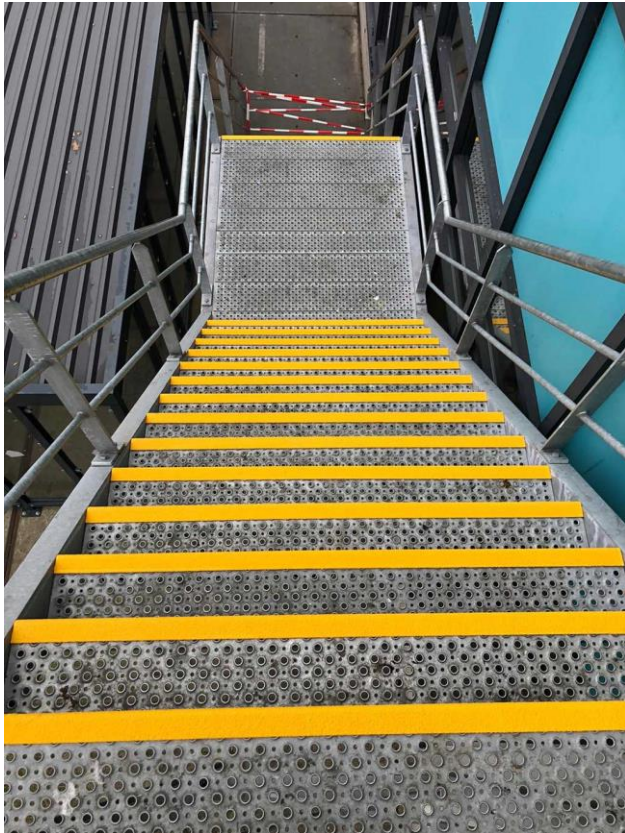
Share your ideas for a safer workspace!

# Unsafe situations





# Safe situations



# Advice

Most slips occur in wet or 'contaminated' conditions, and most trips are due to poor housekeeping. The solutions are often simple and cost effective. A suitable assessment of the risks should identify the necessary controls which include prevention of contamination, management of spillages, suitable footwear, workplace design, maintenance, appropriate flooring, good housekeeping, and effective training and supervision.

This film seeks to promote good practice and emphasises that slip and trip accidents are 'No laughing matter'.

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