

7 Tips to Protect Your Business from Slip and Fall Injuries

Slip and falls accidents killed more than 12,206 people last year and injured another 250,000 to 300,000 people. For every serious injury, employees lost an average of 31 days on the job. Only companies in the transportation industry are higher than this trend.

There are a number of variables that contribute to frequency and severity of slips, trips and falls. These include slippery or deteriorated walking surfaces, improper construction or poor design of walking surfaces, and human factors. Some of these variables are more controllable than others - here are 7 simple, yet little known secrets to help protect your business:

1. Consider walking surfaces when remodeling or during new construction. Avoid terrazzo, glazed ceramic tile, marble and granite. Place carpets down on these entry areas to avoid slips in wet weather.
2. Identify and correct significant differentials in surface continuity. Falls frequently occur when you must change your gait or stride. (example: change in surface from a ramp or walkboard, to a regular surface. Or the bumper stops in parking lots that you may be required to step over.) Make these transitions as flat as possible.
3. Identify and correct significant height differentials. As little as 1/4" can cause a trip and fall. Carpet to tile, tile to carpet, defects in carpet, computer cords all cause tripping hazards. Eliminate or reduce these hazards whenever possible.
4. Reduce the hazards in vehicles and equipment. Install anti-slip coatings or tape on steps of vehicles. Make sure handles are secure and available for climbing in and out of vehicles. Keep cargo area neat and orderly. Keep straps and furniture pads neatly and securely removed from the main traffic areas.
5. Develop a planned maintenance program. Determine your maintenance needs for cleaning and providing safe walking surfaces, including warehouse, office, walkboards and trailers. Make sure employees know their responsibility in keeping work areas clean and reporting spills that can cause a tripping hazard.
6. Review the footwear of employees. Make sure all employees are wearing non-skid shoes with adequate ankle support. Good footwear can improve traction and reduce falls.
7. Reduce falls by installing signs or bright paint around stairs, ramps, or other surface changes. Stairways should have adequate railings, proper riser and tread depth and proper tread friction. Aluminum tread edges can improve slippery stairs.

Remember, Safety and Prevention equals lower premiums. It's as simple as that. Please call us with any questions at **(877) 994-6787**.