

10 Steps to Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls

One glitch in your floor safety program can lead to a devastating slip, trip or fall. When the safety of your employees is in your hands, you need a safety program you can trust. These 10 steps will guide you on the ways to preventing slips, trips and falls in your facility, creating a safer and more compliant workplace.

1 Assess Your Workplace

Know Your Workplace

Effective workplace safety begins with knowing your workplace and knowing exactly what steps to take to improve working conditions. Take the time to assess your facility and look into any past slip, trip and fall incidents by type and location to help you uncover problem areas.

Keep it Cleaner

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Facility Areas	Color
Aisle ways, traffic lanes and work cells	 Yellow
Equipment and fixtures not otherwise color coded (workstations, carts, floor stand displays, racks, etc.)	 White
Materials and components, including raw materials, finished goods	 Blue, Green &/or Black
Materials or products held for inspection	 Orange
Defects, scrap, rework and red tag areas	 Red
Areas to be kept clear for safety/compliance reasons (areas in front of electrical panels, firefighting equipment and safety equipment, such as eyewash stations, safety showers and first aid stations)	 Red & White
Areas to be kept clear for operational purposes (not related to safety and compliance)	 Black & White
Areas that may expose employees to special physical or health hazards	 Black & Yellow

2 Mark Aisles and Passageways

Keep employees on the right path with visual cues. Floor marking tape can be used to identify passageways, equipment and storage areas, hazardous flooring and fork-lift traffic. By marking off obstacles in aisles and pathways, employees can more easily and safely navigate a clear path.

Although OSHA has several regulations dictating that permanent aisles and passageways must be clearly marked, there are no current government-mandated or even widely accepted industry standards that recommend what colors to use when marking floors. With that being said, here is a useful guideline to help you establish floor marking consistency in your workplace.

3 Provide Traction on Slippery Surfaces

Slip free is the way to be. Keeping your feet firmly on the floor means having effective traction and taking the right steps to eliminate slippery surfaces.

To prevent injuries, make sure:

- Floors are clean and dry, whenever possible
- Stairs, landing areas and hazardous slip areas have anti-slip tape or material on them that withstands grease and oil
- The right floor materials are used in the right areas, based on slip hazards. Use mats, absorbents and anti-slip flooring when needed



4 Improve Stair Safety

Stairs are one of the most common areas in a workplace for a slip, trip or fall to occur. Because of this, you need to take additional measures to keep stairways safe.

To improve stair safety, this means:

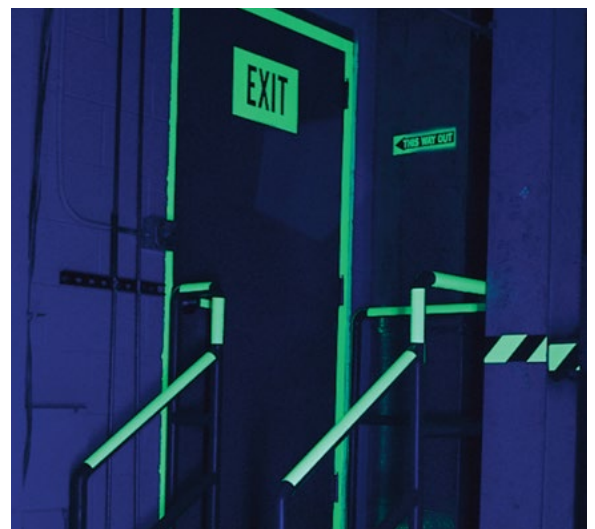
- All treads should be reasonably slip-resistant
- Stair nosing should have a non-slip finish
- Anti-skid cleats are used to mark stairs and improve safety
- Keep stairways clean and dry

5 Mark Emergency Evacuation Routes

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To improve stair safety, this means:

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- Stair nosing should have a non-slip finish
- Anti-skid cleats are used to mark stairs and improve safety
- Keep stairways clean and dry



6 Post Safety Signs and Labels

The first line of defense in protecting workers against slips, trips and falls is putting the right signs in the right places. Warning signs at the point of need tell workers at-a-glance of nearby hazards, such as equipment leaks, uneven surfaces and other potential obstacles. Effective signage includes a clear header, bright colors, bold text, languages aligning with workforce needs and intuitive infographics.

ANSI Signage:

Under OSHA's November 2013 update, users can now use either 535.2 & Z535.5 or the previous standard from 1967-1968. The ANSI Z535 signs allow for clearer messages with a descriptive header, a legend containing the hazard and visual pictogram to help convey the safety message. on slip hazards. Use mats, absorbents and anti-slip flooring when needed.



7 Warn of Temporary Hazards

Workplace signs and labels are a more permanent solution to identify slip hazards. However, sometimes, you need a more temporary option. When there's a short-term hazard due to maintenance, housekeeping or a spill, it can be marked with cautionary floor stands, barricade tape, and warning posts and chains. Temporary options like these put signs into place when needed with the option of removing them once the area no longer poses a threat.

8 Inspect Scaffolding and Ladders

While 60% of accidents happen on same-level surfaces, 40% occur from elevation. With this in mind, the next step in keeping your workplace safe is inspecting the elevated equipment that is used by your facility: scaffolding and ladders.

Establish a standard at your workplace for regularly inspecting scaffolds and ladders for damage, faults and wear. This should include the use of scaffolding tags and inspection tags to mark inspection dates and the authorized employee who performed it, as well as the next due inspection date.



9 Control and Clean Oil and Spills

While keeping your floors clean and dry is an essential step in preventing slips, there's no denying that leaks, drips and spills are common occurrences in a workplace. When faced with oversprays that coat surfaces with oil film, slow drips from machinery or a spilled cleaning chemical, you need a process for immediately detecting, assessing and correcting all types of spills.

One way of quickly and effectively controlling and cleaning spills is to have the right absorbent on hand. Absorbent products include pads, rolls, socks, pillows, mats, rugs and kits designed to meet the ranging durability, absorbency and size needs of potential leaks, drops and spills in your facility.



10 Train Your Employees

Employee training is an essential element of establishing an effective slip, trip and fall prevention program because these are the people that are on the floor each day. Employees need to know why slips, trips and falls occur, how they can be avoided and how to respond when one occurs.

By providing employees with the tools, training and support they need to effectively prevent and respond to slips, trips and falls, you're taking the right steps to avoid employee injuries, declines in productivity and the costs of an accident.

**Solutions
For a Safer
Workplace**

Not sure where to start when your facility needs evaluation?

Contact Seton to arrange an on-site assessment. An outside perspective can help identify hazards that you may have previously overlooked. You'll also gain valuable insight on how to develop an improved safety program.

About Seton

For more than 60 years, Seton has been the most trusted source for workplace safety products, including solutions for the prevention of slips, trips and falls. Our OSHA-trained experts are available to help with all your facility safety and security needs. With hands-on experience in the field expertise, they will help ensure your facility is safe, compliant and free from fees and fines. We proudly carry a wide variety of signs, labels, and safety products that are fully compliant with current ANSI standards as well as customizable products to meet the specific needs of your facility.

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