

PREVENTING SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS



Workers Compensation Fund
toll-free: 1-800-446-COMP
web: www.wcgroup.com

WCF SAFETY TIP

Slips, trips and falls are the second most common cause of accidental deaths in the U.S. each year, second only to traffic accidents. And while fatalities aren't always the outcome, painful, sometimes debilitating injuries often result from slips, trips and falls. The good news is many of these injuries are preventable through simple safety precautions.

At this time of year, wind, rain and snow all play a part in the increased frequency of slips, trips and falls. As we enter the cold, wet fall and winter months, it is more critical than ever to take steps to avoid these types of injuries.

Parking Lots: Statistics show that almost 80 percent of slips and falls are due to snow and ice occur in parking lots and on sidewalks, with more than 50 percent occurring between 6 a.m. and noon. Take special caution while in parking lots in the morning.

North-Facing Entrances: When possible, avoid north-facing entrances to buildings. Unless properly cleared, these areas tend to remain icy and slippery.

Appropriate Footwear: Appropriate footwear in inclement weather can't be overemphasized. If you prefer to wear slick-soled or high-heeled shoes, you may want to bring along an extra pair of tennis shoes for crossing the parking lot.

When You Can't Avoid It: If you must walk on a slippery surface, slow down, take small steps, and keep a hand free for balance.

Spills: Wet surfaces are a huge risk. Mop and dry spills immediately. Place caution signage in problem areas until dry.

Be Smart: Take only what you can carry to maintain balance. Use handrails. Slow down and watch for hazards.

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