

Preventing Injuries From Slips, Trips and Falls Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. People working in predominantly wet conditions should wear footwear with a pattern that is deep enough to penetrate surface water and make direct contact with a floor. However, people working in predominantly dry conditions should use footwear having flat-bottom construction to ensure maximum contact area with the floor.
2. Ten common slipping hazards include spills of liquid or solid materials; wet cleaning methods; rain or snow inside doorways; changes in floor surfaces, such as joins between carpeting and wood flooring; a change from a wet to a dry surface; dusty or sandy surfaces; the incline of a ramp; loose/bumpy flooring; low light; and unsuitable footwear.
3. Shoes with urethane or rubber soles have greater slip resistance than shoes with vinyl or leather soles.
4. Five housekeeping practices that can help reduce slipping hazards in the workplace include removal of debris, snow and ice; prompt cleanup of spills; regular cleaning of floors; providing mats in areas prone to getting wet—such as building entrances; and cleaning the casters on wheeled carts.
5. It takes about seven minutes for a wet-mopped spill to dry, meaning that the area is going to be extremely slippery during that time. A better solution is to use a dry paper towel to soak up and dry a spill.

STATS

- 27% of the 900,380 nonfatal work injuries resulting in days away from work in 2018 were related to slips, trips, and falls.
- 235,740 injuries due to contact with objects and equipment

in 2018 were so severe that they resulted in time away from work.

- Workers less than 25 years of age have higher rates of occupational injuries treated in emergency departments than other age groups
- An estimated 2.5 million workers sustained work-related injuries and were treated in emergency departments during 2018.
- Male workers accounted for approximately 65% of the work-related injuries treated in emergency departments.
- Incidence of falls goes up with each decade of life.