

Facts about Slips, Slides & Falls

For many years, slips, slides and falls have ranked among the top 5 most common causes of workplace injuries reported to the Labour Department.

| Year | Falls | Slips & Slides | Total Accidents |
|------|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2002 | 268 | 79 | 1204 |
| 2001 | 262 | 109 | 1245 |
| 2000 | 188 | 99 | 836 |
| 1999 | 156 | 86 | 665 |
| 1998 | 106 | 58 | 631 |
| 1997 | 132 | 49 | 656 |
| 1996 | 117 | 51 | 654 |

No. of Slips, Slides & Falls
Reported to Labour Department

From the above data it can be seen that more than 25% of accidents are due to slips, slides or falls. Incidentally, the majority of these accidents occur within the hospitality sector. Each year, millions of dollars in employment injury benefits are paid by the National Insurance Scheme, avoiding such accidents should lead to a reduction in this cost.

Slips, slides and falls can be avoided by remembering these simple precautions.

- ✓ Use handrails when ascending or descending stairs, keep one hand free if possible.
- ✓ Avoid storing items on stairs or steps.
- ✓ Clean up spills as soon as possible.
- ✓ Use effective warning signs to warn others of hazards, such as wet floors.
- ✓ Inspect chairs for broken springs, loose screws and defective welds.
- ✓ Use chairs without casters wherever practical.
- ✓ Pick up fallen objects like pens, pencils, compact disks and paper.
- ✓ Avoid placing telephone cables or electrical leads across walkways.
- ✓ Store all items neatly and out of pathways.
- ✓ When storing items at height, ensure that they will not fall.
- ✓ When retrieving items from height, use a step- stool or step-ladder, **not a chair nor a box.**
- ✓ Do not leave opened filing drawers or desk drawers unattended and remember to close them after use.
- ✓ Carry loads in such a way that your view is not obstructed.
- ✓ Always wear shoes with slip-resistant soles.

Floors

- ✓ Take extra care around recently waxed floors, loose carpeting, tiles or mats.
- ✓ Ensure that non-slip floor coverings are used.
- ✓ Use contrasting colours on carpeted stairs and steps.
- ✓ Be aware of unsafe floor gradients.
- ✓ Provide adequate drainage in wet process areas.
- ✓ Use signs to warn of wet areas.

Construction Sites

- ✓ Maintain good housekeeping through proper site layout.
- ✓ Keep walkways clear.
- ✓ Have designated storage areas for waste materials, these should be removed regularly.
- ✓ Provide adequate edge protection when working at heights greater than 2 meters.

Lighting

- ✓ Provide adequate lighting especially near stairs and steps.

Labour Department

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SECTION

AVOIDING



Slips Slides Falls

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