

Practical Measures To Reduce Slip And Trip Incidents

Hazard	Suggested action
Spillage of wet and dry substances and issues of by products from work processes (chemical build-up on floors)	<p>Clean spills up immediately, if a liquid is greasy, make sure a suitable cleaning agent is used, winter management plan for treating icy paths/transport routes.</p> <p>After cleaning the floor can be wet for some time and therefore dry it where possible.</p> <p>Use appropriate barriers to tell people the floor is still wet and arrange alternative bypass routes.</p> <p>If cleaning is done once a day, it may be possible to do it last thing at night, so it is dry for the start of the next shift.</p>
Trailing cables	<p>Temporary covers should not be used as a permanent solution.</p> <p>Position equipment to avoid cables crossing pedestrian routes, use cable covers to securely fix to surfaces, restrict access to prevent contact.</p> <p>Consider use of cordless tools.</p> <p>Remember that contractors will also need to be managed and where they introduce hazards these should be monitored and controlled.</p> <p>Rearrange work stations, the environment or temporary equipment to reduce / remove problems</p>
Miscellaneous rubbish, e.g. plastic bags	<p>Keep areas clear, remove rubbish and do not allow it to build up.</p> <p>If this becomes a regular problem, an inspection regime will need to be introduced to monitor the situation to keep it under control.</p> <p>Ensure all emergency exit routes are kept clear.</p>
Rugs/mats	<p>Ensure mats are securely fixed and do not have curling edges.</p> <p>Utilising mat wells so it is level with the surrounding surfaces can be considered.</p> <p>Contrasting colours should also be considered to clearly identify mat / rug locations.</p>
Poor lighting	<p>Improve lighting levels and placement of light fittings to ensure more even lighting of all floor areas.</p> <p>External lighting between buildings should also be considered.</p>
Slippery surfaces	<p>Assess the cause and treat accordingly, for example always keep them dry if wet causes the problem.</p> <p>In certain situations you may have to replace the covering, treat them chemically and use an appropriate cleaning method etc.</p>

	In addition, certain highly polished surfaces can also be slippery and this should be monitored.
Change from wet to dry floor surface	Provide suitable footwear, warn of risks by using signs, and locate doormats where these changes are likely.
Steps	Cables and other trip hazards must be avoided in these areas. All steps should be well lit and have identifiable tread nosing so the steps can be clearly seen
Changes of level	Try to avoid changes in level in the workplace and where this is not possible, ensure suitable lighting is in place. Consider high visible tread nosing (i.e. contrasting/reflective edge to step) to clearly identify the change in level location.
Slopes	Improve visibility and provide hand rails to assist colleagues. Utilise contrasting floor markings to identify differences between slopes and landings.
Smoke/steam obscuring view	Eliminate or control by redirecting it away from risk areas; improve ventilation and warn of it.
Unsuitable footwear	Ensure workers choose suitable footwear, particularly with the correct type of sole. If the type of work requires special protective footwear, the employer is required by law to provide it free of charge.