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# Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls

## KNOW THE RISKS

Slips and trips are two of the most frequent causes of injury in the workplace and cost employers millions every year. However, the majority of accidents caused by slips and trips can be easily avoided by following a few simple guidelines.

By following the principles set out in this poster, you can ensure that your workplace is free from slip and trip hazards and that accidents are kept to a minimum.



## 1. HAZARD - SPILLAGES

### Spillages

Clean spills up at once. Remember that the cleaning agent needed will depend on the nature of the spill. If the floor remains wet after the spill has been cleaned, make sure people are aware of this by using appropriate signs. Arrange a diverted route that avoids the area if necessary.



## 2. HAZARD - CABLES

### Cables

Try to make sure that cables do not cross walkways. Use cable curbs and tunnels to prevent trips if necessary.



## 3. HAZARD - OBSTRUCTIONS

### Obstructions

Permanent obstructions and any objects left lying around can easily create a trip hazard if they are not seen. Keep work areas clear of obstructions. If this is not possible, use appropriate signs or barriers to make people aware of hazards.



## 4. HAZARD - FLOORING

### Flooring

Look for any cracks, holes or uneven wear etc that may cause a trip hazard. If the floor regularly becomes wet or slippery through working procedures, consider how this can be contained or prevented.



## 5. HAZARD - FOOTWEAR

### Footwear

Choice of footwear can be crucial in preventing slips and trips. If special footwear is needed to ensure the safety of employees, the employer must provide it.



## 6. HAZARD - LIGHTING

### Lighting

Lighting should be adequate enough to enable people to see obstructions and hazards. Ensure that faulty lights are replaced and dirty lights are cleaned before levels become too low for people to work in safety.



## 7. PREVENTING ACCIDENTS

An effective management system will enable you to:

- Ascertain any slip and trip problems.
- Identify the best course of action.
- Execute your chosen course of action.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your precautions.

You should try to incorporate the following steps into your system:

1. Ask which areas of your workplace contain slip and trip hazards and devise a strategy for improvement. Minimise slip and trip hazards through effective equipment and working procedures.
2. Make sure workers are aware of slip and trip risks and are committed to minimising them. Give people safety responsibilities. Ensure a record is kept of who is responsible for what.
3. Carry out regular checks to ensure that any safety procedures are being carried out properly. Keep a record of cleaning and maintenance work.
4. Review the approach to slip and trip issues on a regular basis and examine accident reports.







