



# Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls In The Workplace

One of the most common threats to workplace safety is a slip, trip, or fall accident. Slips, trips, and falls are a leading cause of workplace injuries. Many injuries can occur including sprains, strains, contusions, fractures, back & head injuries, paralysis and even fatalities. Costs to employers and workers can be substantial. When a slip, trip, or fall occurs the employer faces loss of productivity, increased workers compensation premiums and costs associated with training replacement workers.

Common causes of slips, trips and falls include –

- Uneven walking surfaces
- Cluttered work areas
- Poor drainage, i.e.: downspout discharge across a walking surface
- Unpainted curbs
- Step stools unavailable causing employee to use an alternative
- Objects left along the side of a walkway
- Loose flooring or carpeting
- Holes or broken surfaces
- Slippery conditions due to weather
- Stairs with non-contrasting tread
- Stairs with insufficient handrails
- Inadequate lighting
- Power cords along a walkway



Successful prevention can create a safer working environment for both employees and employers.

Items for successful prevention include –

- Develop a written Slip, Trip, and Fall prevention policy specifying both employer and employee responsibilities...
- Inspections on a regular basis
- Training of employees to identify hazards
- A formalized housekeeping and maintenance schedule
- Implement a mat safety program
- Formal snow and ice removal policy
- Maintain proper lighting
- Establish a footwear policy
- Control individual behavior

IMPORTANT NOTICE - The information and suggestions presented by Michigan Millers Mutual Insurance Company in this Safety Talks Toolkit Bulletin are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related, or other, laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter them to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.