

### WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT SLIPS AND TRIPS?

**SLIPPING  
HAZARDS IN A  
WORKPLACE  
ARE COMMON,  
BUT THEY  
AREN'T  
ALWAYS THIS  
OBVIOUS. BE  
CAREFUL.**



Everyone in the workplace has a part to play when it comes to preventing slips and trips, from the person who designed the building to the people working inside of it.

#### **Employers**

To tackle slips and trips successfully in your workplace you need to; put in place an effective management system, carry out regular risk assessments and make sure you are aware of the relevant laws and regulations.

#### **Workers**

What can you do to make a difference? Your actions could make the difference between someone getting injured or not. Seen a spillage? Instead of thinking it's someone else's problem, why not clear it up?

#### **Architects & designers**

Slipping accidents cause many thousand of occupational and public sector injuries every year involving broken bones, pain suffering and financial loss for society. Where better to make that right choice of flooring than at the very beginning of the design process taking a balanced view of cost, durability, aesthetics and safety targeting those areas that are foreseeably wet. Getting it right by design is a giant step forwards in reducing slip injuries.

#### **Footwear**

Selection and use of the most appropriate footwear for the work environment can have a dramatic effect on reducing accidents. If there is still a residual slip risk after slip controls have been put in place, footwear with slip-resistant properties has an important part to play in further reducing the risk.

#### **Flooring**

Employers seeking to procure new flooring must have the right information to enable them to source products which are suitable for preventing slips and trips. It is essential that they can be sure that the product description gives a good indication of how the flooring will perform in its intended use and how it should be cleaned and maintained. Furthermore, manufacturers and suppliers have a legal duty to provide accurate descriptions of their products.





# SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS

## Careless Ken should know:

"Falls can be dangerous. Every year more than 12,000 people die as the result of a fall - nearly 500 of them due to a fall in the workplace - while another 33,000 are injured through falling on stairs."

"But many people also suffer falls on level ground, two thirds of them slipping or tripping on worn or wet surface."

"Most fall accidents can be avoided and risk of back or spine injuries, muscle strains and sprains, torn ligaments and broken bones can be reduced"



## DANGER AREAS INCLUDE:

- Unsafe ladders and stairs
- Damaged or slippery surfaces.
- Obstructed walk ways
- Running or moving too quickly
- The wrong shoes and loose turn-ups on trousers
- Poor lighting



## BUT... the biggest cause of falls is AN UNSAFE ATTITUDE

How you can help  
reduce fall statistics:

- Put things away after use.
- Step over or around obstructions and never on them.
- Ensure lighting is adequate or use a powerful hand light.
- Walk and change direction slowly when carrying a load.
- Cover all floor openings or protect them with guard rails.
- Never leave rubbish, tools or materials on the floor.
- Never block walkways or aisles with machines or equipment.
- Do not leave leads, power cables or air hoses in walkways.
- Never clutter the stairways with rubbish etc.
- Never leave cabinet drawers open.
- Never carry or push loads that block your vision.

## IN WINTER

- Clean up spills, drips and leaks as soon as possible
- Sand icy spots immediately
- Use warning signs or barriers
- Report hazards immediately



## ACCIDENTS do happen

If you are injured from a fall, get medical attention to make sure nothing is torn, sprained or broken before you go back to work.