

Indoor and Outdoor Construction Slips and Trips



Slips, trips and falls are the leading cause of workplace injuries, and the most common incidents occur on the same level. Indoor slip and trip hazards are more controllable than outdoor hazards because the work environment is less exposed to weather. Water, ice and snow usually do not blow into buildings with windows, but it can still be tracked or blown in through openings not yet enclosed. Employees can leave slip and trip hazards behind in the form of waste, scrap and trash. Review the following indoor and outdoor slips and trips tips with your employees.

Toolbox Tips

INDOOR

- Pay attention to your walking path.
- Stay off of the phone and do not text while you are walking through a job site.
- Do not run.
- Supervisors must review slip, trip and fall prevention methods with employees, especially when winter weather gets difficult.
- Flag trip hazards with high visibility paint or caution tape.
- Wear appropriate construction footwear with an aggressive sole. Worn soles won't protect you from slips. Purchase boots with slip-resistant properties.
- Concrete floors can sweat during the day and freeze over at night.
- Assign an employee to pick up scrap on a regular basis. Even small bits of scrap need to be picked up.
- Take time to clean off boots before coming inside. Do not drag mud and water inside.
- Use a wet dry vacuum to pick up water. Use a squeegee to push water into drains or out the door.

OUTDOOR

- Scan the walking and working surface when moving around the job site.
- Pay attention to your walking path.
- Do not text or talk on the phone while walking through a job site. Stand in one place to talk.
- Construction footwear must have aggressive tread. Worn out soles must not be used. Slip-resistant soles are recommended.
- Pick up job site scraps, debris and trash.
- Do not use pallets for walkways.
- Create designated walk paths when snow and ice have accumulated on the job site.
- Do not let employees walk through piles of materials or scrap.
- Improve drainage to prevent puddles and ice.
- Provide good ramps and stairs for employees to access the first level of the building.
- Do not let employees jump onto and off of doorway landings, before foundations or footings are backfilled.
- Keep machine steps clear of mud, ice and snow.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and MEM assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.