

SAFETY BRIEFING - SLIPS AND TRIPS

Introduction

This briefing addresses the key risks and control measures associated with slips and trips in the workplace. The aim of this briefing is to ensure all staff are fully aware of the potential risks, what can happen if slip and trip hazards aren't properly managed, and what they should do to minimize the chances of a slip or trip happening in the first place.

Hazards

Slips, trips and falls.

Risk level

High		Medium - High	X	Medium		Medium - Low		Low	
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- **Slips** and trips can cause serious injuries.
- Many of them are directly related to poor housekeeping.
- **Slips** can easily be caused by greasy, wet or worn floors.
- May also be caused by icy winter weather conditions.
- **Trips** can have serious consequences when they lead to a fall, even at ground level.
- Often caused by poor housekeeping arrangements, uneven surfaces, loose carpet tiles and trailing cables.

Control measures

- Have a clean-up policy for spills. Spills should be cleaned away immediately. If this can't be done, make sure that the area is clearly marked with a hazard warning sign.
- Make sure you have some spill response equipment available - even if this is only a mop and bucket.
- Regularly inspect and clean floors against a written schedule.
- Repair worn or uneven surfaces as soon as possible or mark with warning signs until they can be done.
- Have a good housekeeping policy and regularly inspect all areas to enforce the message.
- Make sure all cables are tidied away.
- Have winter weather supplies ready early, just in case - suppliers might dry up quickly once the cold weather hits.

Key points

- Slips and trips can have serious consequences but can often be easily avoided.
- Make sure you have a regular cleaning and inspection plan backed up with prompt repairs to worn or uneven surfaces.
- When it comes to housekeeping, make sure everything has a place.