

# SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

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**Purpose-** The failure to establish safe work practices in working and walking surfaces may result in needless injuries to employees. According to OSHA: **SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS** cause the majority of workplace accidents (approximately 15 percent) deaths and fatalities except for motor vehicle accidents.

## HAZARDS

**SLIPS AND TRIPS**  
**FALLS FROM SAME LEVEL**  
**FALLS FROM HEIGHT**  
**MEANS OF EGRESS**  
**FIRES**



## GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Housekeeping is everyone's responsibility. It is one of the "Key" elements in any Safety program and requires that every employee keeps their area clean and organized. Always remember to maintain the workplace clean and orderly and ensure work area floors are maintained as clean and dry as possible to prevent slips and fall injuries.

Good housekeeping habits:

- Reflect an image of a well-run operation
- Reflect a healthful, safe, pleasant, and prosperous working environment

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF BAD HABITS

Good Housekeeping habits keep everyone safe from slips and falls. On the other hand, poor housekeeping habits lead to injury, illness and property damage. FOR EXAMPLE:

- Slips and trips due to wet or obstructed walking and working surfaces
- Crush injuries due to improperly stored or stacked equipment or materials
- Fires due to accumulation or improper storage of combustible materials or waste

NEVER allow combustible waste materials, such as oily rags to accumulate in quantities or store in ways that can create a fire hazard; dispose of properly and away from hot work, heat or other sources of ignition

NEVER litter; dispose of trash in approved garbage cans/bins (not in cardboard boxes or plastic bags!).

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## ESTABLISH GOOD HOUSEKEEPING HABITS:

1. Establish a housekeeping plan that includes a cleanup schedule, as well as continued enforcement.
2. Clean up and organize the work area throughout the day and after completion of each job; NEVER leave the work area cluttered with tools, equipment, materials and other objects that can cause slip, trip, or other hazard
3. Keep walking surfaces clean and unobstructed; NEVER store anything in front of doorways
4. Provide covers and/or guardrails to protect workers from the hazards of open pits, ditches, tanks, stairs or openings where a hazard of employees falling is present or where material may fall
5. Load ratings limits must not be exceeded and marked conspicuously, and posted where applicable
6. Stairways with flights of stairs with four or more risers must have standard stair railings or handrails, used only for a specified load and job and meet required dimensions
7. Ladders should only be used when they are the right type and size for the job to be done. This means using a heavy ladder for construction work, not a light household-type ladder. Metal ladders should never be used when working near exposed electrical circuits or power lines. If you are working around trees and shrubs, check to be sure that any power lines are not hidden behind them. Never place a ladder on an unstable base such as a barrel or box to gain additional height.



Always maintain a 3-point (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) contact on the ladder when you are climbing. Keep your body near the middle of the step and always face the ladder while climbing

**EXPECTATION** – To summarize: slips, trips, and falls constitute the majority of workplace accidents. Good work practices for walking and working surfaces include requirements for housekeeping, guarding floor and wall openings and holes, stairs and ladders. Remember once you clean your area it needs to remain clean and organized, **do not** walk away and assume the area will not require cleaning or inspection again. When work is performed, some disorder is created, such as the accumulation of materials or scrap.

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SHIFT TO CLEAN UP ~ IT IS MOST IMPORTANT DURING WORKING HOURS TO PREVENT TRIP AND FALL HAZARDS.**



**SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS**

*Don't slip up on safety*