



Mopping & Wet Floor Signs: Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

Common workplace accidents, such as slips, trips, and falls can be avoided when you remain attentive to your surroundings. Each year, over 700 employees are killed on the job because of falls. Almost two-thirds of these falls that lead to deaths are attributed to surfaces that were wet or slippery.

Usually falls are minor and don't result in injury. But sometimes, these accidents are serious—they are a leading cause of accidental death. They are also one of the most common causes of injury at home and on the job.

Injuries resulting from slips, trips, or falls include:

- Back or spine injuries
- Muscle strains or sprains
- Torn ligaments
- Broken bones
- Even death

Follow these hints when mopping floors to prevent slips:

- Clean up spills, drips, and leaks immediately
- Put up wet floor warning signs or barriers to warn people about slip hazards
- Report hazards to your supervisor immediately
- Report any slip and fall or near-miss to your supervisor immediately
- Ask your supervisor for additional wet floor warning signs if you determine you need more

The following guidelines can help prevent other types of slips and falls:

- Keep everything in its proper place
- Be sure lighting is adequate
- Wear shoes with antiskid soles and other PPE that are right for your job
- Never use broken or unstable ladders
- Don't carry anything that blocks your vision while walking
- Walk and never run while you are working
- Hold the railing on the stairs
- Keep one hand free for support or to break a fall
- Don't jump from platforms
- Don't leave drawers open
- Stay away from loading docks, manholes, and other ledges
- Report loose or worn flooring or torn carpet
- Remove debris or obstructions from stairs and walkways