

# Slip-Trip-Fall Risk Assessment Tool

## Walking and Working Surfaces



**Nationwide**  
is on your side

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation Area: \_\_\_\_\_

This sample self-inspection tool guides the user through an evaluation of slip, trip and fall (STF) hazards that can increase the likelihood of a STF event by employees or the public. Use the information gathered to identify program, operational, and/or physical changes that can be used to better reduce or eliminate these hazards.

**Instructions:** **1.** Review the risk factor definitions on the back of this sheet. **2.** Evaluate any past STF incidents to identify focus areas. **3.** Prioritize evaluation areas (entry/exit, high foot traffic, past events). **4.** If a listed STF risk factor is present, use the observation/comment section to provide details, and list any repair/remedy ideas in the noted section.

	Risk Factors	Present?	Observations/Comments	Repair/Remedy
Walking/Working Surface	Naturally slippery or unstable			
	Cracks, holes, or protrusions over 1/4"			
	Damaged, loose, or missing flooring			
	Ramps or low-level elevation changes			
	Wet process, leaks, or damp area			
	Subject to other contaminants			
	Drainage, backup, or overflow path			
	Ice/snow or other weather exposure			
	Lighting, glare, or hazard visibility issues			
	Inadequate or obstructed pathway			
	Missing/damaged railings, barriers or markings			
User	Operational hazard (push/pull, speed)			
	Multi-task or distraction			
	Improper footwear			
Program	Poor cleaning/maintenance practices			
	Poor spill response/hazard control measures			
	Poor controls for weather-related events			

# Slip-Trip-Fall Assessment Tool:

## Definitions

Risk Factor	Definition
Naturally slippery, unstable or uneven	Some flooring is slick in its natural state, which increases the risk of a slip event. Unstable surfaces (such as gravel, mulch, or similar shifting material), sloped, and uneven surfaces increase the risk of a fall from imbalance or rolling an ankle. Unexpected changes in traction such as from uneven wear in heavy traffic areas, or from changes in floor surfaces such as from tile to carpet can also lead to slipping.
Cracks, holes or protrusions over 1/4"	Walking surfaces should be even and consistent. It only takes a 1/4" change to cause a trip/fall. Uneven sidewalks, tiles, and floor transitions are common areas for this. These hazards create unstable footing and interrupt what the user anticipates.
Damaged, loose, or missing flooring	Loose material can occur from deterioration of the walking surface, such as with concrete/asphalt, loose tiles, damaged carpeting. This can lead to slipping on the loose material or tripping over the surface change.
Ramps or low-level elevation changes	Low-level elevation changes (such as curbs, ramps, or stairways with three or fewer steps) are not as easily visually identified and may cause missteps. Increasing the visibility of these elevation areas (such as by adding high contrast color) can help to reduce slips and falls. All steps should be consistent in height and tread depth and have the leading edge (or nosing) of a contrasting color from the step.
Wet process, leaks or damp area	Are common sources of water/moisture present (such as drink fountains, sinks, entryways, condensate drains, misting sprays, or incidental spills)? Are containment measures in place? Does the color of the surface make it difficult to identify?
Subject to other contaminants	Consider contaminants such as sand, grease, oil, food, produce spills, trash, or other elements that are slick, or slide/roll easily.
Drainage, backup, or overflow path	Does the condition or lack of drains, gutters, or drain grates create a slip/fall hazard (such as clogged gutters, drainage across a walkway, floor sloping toward the drain. Consider freezing exposures in outside areas or around interior freezers.
Ice/Snow or other weather	Is the surface subject to weather factors that increase the risk of a slip/fall? Entryways should limit materials from being tracked inside.
Lighting, glare, or hazard visibility issues	Does lighting allow good visibility of walking surfaces and identification of elevation changes, especially parking areas, entryways, and hallways. Glare and lighting contrast (such as moving from bright to dim), can impact vision, and can change seasonally. Low-visibility hazards (extension cords, hoses, storage items) and flooring color/patterns may impair seeing a hazard.
Inadequate or obstructed pathway	Temporary or fixed obstacles can contribute to reduced visibility in the walkway or be a trip hazard itself (for example, decorative plants, display stands, storage, furniture, equipment, or machinery). Consider what changes can be made to remove the obstacle, safely change the path of travel, or increase hazard awareness (such as through signage or high visibility colors) to reduce potential for a slip and fall.
Missing/damaged railings, barriers, or markings	Railings offer stability and may control travel; barriers block access; and markings/signage highlight hazard or provide information. When these are missing, travel may follow unwanted paths that increase risk. All should be secure, and markings should not present a slip hazard.
Operational Hazard (push/pull, speed)	Moving too quickly increases the risk of a slip/fall and reduces the time for responding to a hazard. Is traction sufficient for the required tasks such as pushing and pulling or directional changes. Do tasks block the view of a spill or hazard.
Multi-task or distraction	Multi-tasking while walking, such as texting, carrying packages, reading, or other similar tasks/distractions increase the risk of a STF event.
Improper footwear	The lack of footwear or appropriate footwear for the floor surface can greatly contribute to the potential for a STF event. When the type of footwear cannot be controlled, flooring material selection and program elements become more important.
Poor cleaning/maintenance practices	Are cleaning practices/frequency adequate to address conditions that may cause a slip and fall? Do they add to the hazard? Inspections should document conditions of interior and exterior surfaces. Does maintenance address inspection reports? Is it scheduled on a consistent bases to address potholes, crack repair, paving, non-functional lighting, etc.? Formal policies for all should be in place.
Poor spill response/hazard control measures	Are there formal procedures to address spills or wet floors that include notifying pedestrians of spill hazards (such as wet floor signage), cleaning practices, and drying/monitoring. Do inspections identify the hazard in a timely manner. Hazards should not be left unattended.
Poor controls for weather-related events	Do floor maintenance, inspection and housekeeping activities change in response to weather events, such as rain, high winds, snow, ice, hail, and thaw/re-freeze? Do mitigation methods, such as wet floor mats, snow/ice melt chemicals, sand, pose any additional STF risk factors?