

10 STEPS TO PREVENT SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS IN THE WORKPLACE



Slips, trips and falls are a serious concern in the workplace. In fact, slips, trips and falls represent the majority of general industry accidents and account for nearly 8.6 million visits to the emergency room. This represents thousands of employee injuries each year, including some that are disabling and even fatal. About 20 percent of all workplace injuries are caused by slips, trips and falls. For the employee, recordable slips and falls result in an average 11 days away from work and a sizable cost of \$40,000 per incident.

In May 2010, OSHA announced that it plans to tighten the standards on walking-working surfaces, which will be designed to help protect against slips, trips and falls in the workplace. The changes would allow OSHA to fine employers if they do not meet the additional stipulations on fall protection and safety.

Brady offers 10 tips and tools to help your facility meet OSHA standards and prevent slips, trips and falls from occurring in the workplace.



Assess your slips, trips and falls needs.

1. Assess your slips, trips and falls needs

Complete an assessment of your facility. Take a look at your past slips/trip/fall incidents by type and location to uncover trends and commonalities. Review your general housekeeping habits. If your facility is noticeably clean and well organized, it is a good barometer that your safety program is working. If certain areas need attention, it's a good idea to step back and drill down to the root cause—it could point to a larger safety issue that would benefit the entire facility.

Leverage your safety suppliers' knowledge. Brady offers an [on-site assessment](#) to visit your site and perform a complete audit of your facility. Oftentimes, you'll find that there are more hazards than you realized. During the assessment, Brady engineers will document and summarize both required and recommended steps to minimize slips, trips and fall concerns in the workplace. Brady will also provide a basic written program that encompasses facility inspection and employee training elements.



Mark aisles and passageways.

2. Mark aisles and passageways

Use heavy-duty, highly visible warning tape and floor tape, such as [ToughStripe® tape](#), to mark any uneven walkway and floor surfaces in your facility. Also use floor tape and labels to mark proper locations for tools and equipment storage areas (i.e. pallet jacks, ladders, etc.) to keep them from becoming obstacles in aisles and walkways. If the walkways are exposed to a variety of lighting conditions, use reflective or photoluminescent tape to ensure that they be seen at all times. OSHA requires that aisles and passageways be kept clear and in good repairs at all times.



Provide traction on slippery surfaces.

3. Provide traction on slippery surfaces

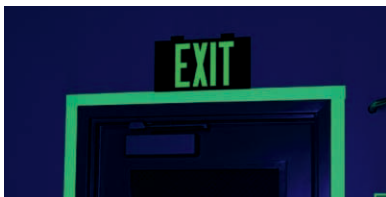
Keep floors clean and dry where possible. To prevent injuries, make sure your stairs and landing areas are marked with [anti-skid floor tape](#) that withstands grease and oil. Brady's sure traction anti-skid tapes can assure solid footing—even in the most slippery of conditions. For added protection, install anti-skid tape with yellow and black stripes and text with the messages "caution" or "watch your step."



Improve safety on stairs

4. Improve safety on stairs

Stairs are one of the most common areas in a workplace for slips, trips and falls. It is required that all treads be reasonably slip-resistant and the [stair nosings](#) shall be of non-slip finish. To improve safety on stairs, make sure your stairs are marked with anti-skid cleats.



Mark emergency evacuation routes.

5. Mark emergency evacuation routes

Exits must be clearly visible and be marked by a sign reading "exit." If the direction of travel to the exit is not immediately apparent, signs must be posted along the exit access indicating the direction of travel to the nearest exit. Signs should be marked and lit adequately and appropriately. [Glow-in-the-dark exit signs](#), [anti-skid tapes and cleats](#) are an ideal solution for providing photoluminescent markings.



Post safety signage and labeling.



Warn of temporary hazards.



Inspect scaffolds and ladders.



Control and clean oil and spills.



Train your employees.

Brady provides a broad range of products and services designed to prevent workplace slips, trips and falls. These products help to reduce the number of injuries in the workplace and support compliance with OSHA, NFPA and other pertinent regulations and standards. Contact your Brady representative to set up an on-site slip, trip and fall audit for your facility or visit www.BradyID.com/services to learn more.

6. Post safety signage and labeling

Posting safety signs and labels can help you communicate critical information at the point of need. Brady offers more than 8,000 different sign and warning devices and has more than 22,000 stock signs available for safety, maintenance and facility identification. Brady's signs feature bright colors, bold text and intuitive pictographs to ensure communication is highly visible and easily understood. Be sure to maintain proper lighting to ensure your markings and signage is clearly visible. Poor lighting is associated with increased accidents in the workplace.

Brady offers a [facility safety signage audit](#) and [facility signage walkthrough](#) inspection to ensure the accuracy and completeness of your facility. During the assessment, Brady professionals will provide ways to prevent injuries and reduce downtime.

7. Warn of temporary hazards

Proactively identify situations that may cause slips, trips and falls and be sure to mark the areas ahead of time. Short-term hazards due to maintenance and housekeeping should be marked with cautionary [floor stands](#), [barricade tape](#) and [warning posts and chains](#).

8. Inspect scaffolds and ladders

Establish a standard at your workplace for frequently inspecting your scaffolds and ladders for damage, faults and wear. Use [scaffolding tags](#) and [inspection tags](#) to mark the date of the last inspection and the authorized employee who conducted it, as well as the date that next inspection is due.

9. Control and clean oil and spills

Establish a set process for immediately detecting, assessing and correcting spills that occur in the workplace, whether it is an oil leak, water puddle or liquid spill. Don't use a bucket and water to clean an oil spill; it will likely leave a slippery sheen on the surface. Be sure your facility is stocked with the proper amount of absorbent pads such as [Re-Form™ eco-friendly absorbents](#), [Oil Only absorbents](#) and [Universal all-purpose absorbents](#). Monitor and change absorbent mats in a timely matter as they become saturated. Rolls and [emergency spills kits](#) are additional products for immediate solutions.

10. Train your employees

Employee training is one of the most important elements in preventing slips, trips and falls. Educate employees on why slips, trips and falls occur and teach them how to look for hazards. Brady offers an interactive [slips, trips and falls training CD-ROM](#). This CD-ROM shows employees situations that can lead to slips, trips and falls and what they can do to avoid and prevent these accidents from occurring.

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