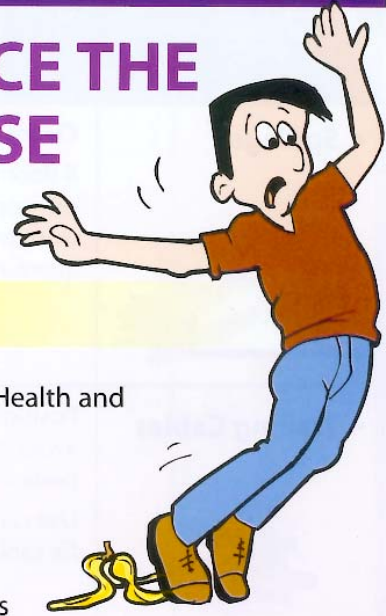


SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS...

HOW EMPLOYERS CAN REDUCE THE SINGLE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF INJURIES AT WORK?



How Extensive is the Problem?

Every year over 33,000¹ slip, trip and fall related injuries are reported to the Health and Safety Executive and Local Authorities or District Council in the UK.

This type of accident accounts for 1/3² of all major injuries reported.

They cost employers more than £300million² per year through damages, administration and insurance costs, lost production and temporary absences from work. In a typical supermarket chain £2million³ is paid out in claims relating to slips, trips or falls each year.

They also cost society around £1000 million³ per year in medical costs, social security costs and loss of potential output.

The majority of slips, trips and falls can be prevented using simple and inexpensive measures, examples of which are contained within this leaflet.

Where You Stand Within the Law

The *Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978* places a general duty on employers to ensure the health, safety and welfare of anyone who may be affected by their work. Employees are also required not to endanger themselves or others. This means that **everyone in the workplace has a responsibility to control slip, trip & fall risks.**

The *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (NI) 2000* require every employer to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of his employees whilst they are at work, and also to persons not in his employment, but who may be on the premises e.g. customers.



They also require appropriate arrangements for effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of any measures to safeguard health and safety identified by the risk assessment.







The *Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (NI) 1993* require floors and traffic routes to be suitable, free from obstruction and in such condition so as not to expose any person to risks to his health or safety. These regulations also require suitable and effective measures to be taken to prevent any person falling a distance likely to cause personal injury.







¹ Source: HSE Books HS(G) 155 'Slips & Trips': Guidance for Employers on identifying hazards & controlling risks

² Source: HSE INDG 225 'Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls at Work'

³ Source: HSE 'Health & Safety Laboratory Pedestrian Slipping Workshop Oct 2000'

So What Do You Need To Do?

HAZARD	SUGGESTED ACTION	MEASURES REQUIRED <i>*Think about your business. What action do you need to take?</i>	RESPONSIBILITY <i>*Complete this column with details specific to your business</i>
<p>• Spillages</p> 	<p>Cleans spills immediately. If floor is wet after cleaning use appropriate signs to warn others and arrange alternative bypass routes.</p>		<p>(e.g. employer in conjunction with all employees)</p>
<p>• Trailing Cables</p> 	<p>Position equipment to avoid cables crossing pedestrian routes. Use cable covers to securely fix cables out of harm's way.</p>		
<p>• Rubbish & other obstructions</p> 	<p>Keep the floor around the work areas and all walkways clear. Remove rubbish regularly and do not allow it to build up.</p>		
<p>• Rugs/mats</p> 	<p>Ensure all mats are securely fixed and do not have curling edges.</p>		
<p>• Slippery surfaces</p> 	<p>Assess the cause and treat accordingly e.g. use the appropriate cleaning agents and methods. Outdoors, sweep leaves off paths and salt/sand during frosty conditions.</p>		
<p>• Change from wet to dry surfaces</p> 	<p>Locate doormats where changes are likely, eg. entrances. Warn of risks by using signs.</p>		

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<p>• Poor lighting</p> 	<p>Improve lighting levels and position of light fittings to ensure even lighting of all floor areas.</p>		
<p>• Changes of level e.g. stairs and slopes</p> 	<p>Improve lighting. Highlight changes in level e.g. with yellow paint. Provide handrails. Provide non-slip surfaces.</p>		
<p>• Ladders</p> 	<p>Train staff in safe use. Always position and secure correctly. Check regularly for defects.</p>		
<p>• Smoke/steam obscuring view</p> 	<p>Improve ventilation and warn of danger. Redirect people away from risk areas.</p>		
<p>• Unsuitable footwear</p> 	<p>Ensure suitable footwear is worn. If the type of work requires special protective footwear the employer is required to provide it free of charge.</p>		
<p>• Open vertical drops</p> 	<p>Install effective barriers around vertical drops. Restrict access to dangerous areas. Use warning signs.</p>		

Sources of Further Information

Your local Environmental Health Department is responsible for ensuring health and safety standards within a wide range of businesses.

This service is located within your District Council offices, where Environmental Health Officers will be available to provide support and advice in relation to slips, trips and falls and other occupational health and safety issues.

The Environmental Health Department can also offer advice on areas such as:

Food Control, Consumer Safety, Environmental Protection and other regulatory services.

An additional source of health and safety information is the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland, telephone **028 9024 3249** and www.hseni.gov.uk

Northern Group District Councils

Antrim Borough Council

The Steeple
Antrim
BT41 1BJ

Tel: 028 9448 1319



Ballymena Borough Council

'Ardeevin'
80 Galgorm Road
Ballymena BT42 1AB

Tel: 028 2566 0300



Ballymoney Borough Council

Riada House
14 Charles Street
Ballymoney BT53 6DZ

Tel: 028 2766 2280



Carrickfergus District Council

Town Hall
Carrickfergus
BT38 7BL

Tel: 028 9335 1604



Coleraine Borough Council

Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine BT52 1EY

Tel: 028 7034 7034



Cookstown District Council

Council Offices
Burn Road
Cookstown BT80 8DT

Tel: 028 8676 2205



Larne Borough Council

Smiley Buildings
Victoria Road
Larne BT40 1RU

Tel: 028 2827 2313



Magherafelt District Council

50 Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EH

Tel: 028 7939 7979



Moyle District Council

Sheskburn House
Mary Street
Ballycastle BT54 6QH

Tel: 028 2076 2225



Newtownabbey Borough Council

Mossley Mill
Newtownabbey
BT36 5QA

Tel: 028 9034 0000

