

Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention: Housekeeping

Good housekeeping is more than an industry best practice; it helps reduce the chances of slips, trips, or falls. This handout is designed to address housekeeping practices that form a comprehensive slip, trip, and fall risk control program.

The majority of slips result from foreign matter on flooring materials. Posting signs (e.g., "Wet - Slippery Floor"), reporting unusual conditions, and knowing what to do when there is a spill are essential housekeeping tasks for an effective risk control program. Good housekeeping reduces the chance of a slip or fall at a facility. Before allocating funds to replace flooring or purchasing materials to reduce slips, trips, or falls, it is prudent to review housekeeping operations. Overlooking the details of reading labels or not having spill control kits available can increase chances of slip and fall injuries. The following checklist can be used to assess housekeeping best practices. A "No" answer indicates further investigation is warranted.

	Yes	No	N/A
Spill Control			
Are spills, puddles, or other debris cleaned up immediately?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are signs used to notify others that the area is hazardous?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the spill control clean-up kit storage area conducive to organized retrieval of clean-up materials for spills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a wet area cordoned off until it is dry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a formal procedure for checking and removing the signage when the area is clean and dry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are absorbent materials available for wiping up greasy, oily, or other kinds of liquid spills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floor Finishing/Cleaning Products			
Is the supply of soap, disinfectant, and cleaning supplies adequate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are cleaning products stored in accordance with manufacturer recommendations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have cleaning supply vendors been contacted to discuss flooring product offerings in light of increased awareness of preventing slips and falls?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is training provided to workers when cleaning products change?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are flooring manufacturer's recommended care instructions followed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are workers trained on how to apply floor finishing products?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a mopping and cleaning schedule maintained to keep floors clean and dry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a log that contains details such as the brand of cleaning products used, when the task was performed, and what procedure was followed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No	N/A
Is there a formal procedure to resolve discrepancies between logs and physical conditions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>