

## Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

Slips, trips and falls are among the most common causes of injuries in schools. Next to traffic accidents, falls seriously injure and kill more people than any other type of accident. Two of the most common causes of slips and falls are slippery and uneven walking surfaces. There are many simple ways to help prevent the next slip, trip and fall accident at your school.

### Follow safe practices:

#### Teachers

- When working beyond your reach, use a stepladder or request help. Don't stand on a chair.
- Wear slip resistant footwear during winter storms when wet conditions exist.
- Obey caution signs during floor maintenance or construction projects.
- Identify and remove tripping hazards in your classroom.

#### Custodians and Maintenance Personnel

- Use caution and wear slip resistant footwear when cleaning, stripping or waxing floors.
- Ensure floor mats are positioned correctly and are in good condition.
- Perform regular inspections of walking surfaces and generate work orders for repairs.
- Inspect for loose handrails, damaged stair treads, cracked surfaces and mark them with caution signs until repairs can be completed.
- Use the proper ladder for the job. Do not stand on a chair or desk to extend your reach.
- Clean up spills immediately and use caution signs to warn of wet surfaces.
- Avoid trailing cables along the floor from equipment and tools.

#### Identify Hazardous Conditions:

- Check for loose, damaged, worn and uneven flooring. Submit the findings for repair.
- Ensure lighting is sufficient and that slopes or steps are clearly visible.
- Keep walkways and work areas clear of obstructions.
- Ensure steps are marked with anti-slip nosing and not a gloss paint that is slippery when wet.

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