

Slips, Trips, and Falls

Most often in a school setting, a fall occurs when someone is using a ladder or other platform. Encourage staff to follow these practices:

- Use only proper ladders for reaching heights. Don't try to improvise by standing on a chair, boxes, etc.
- Inspect the ladder before use to ensure no parts are broken, cracked, or missing. Don't use the ladder if it looks unsafe.
- Make sure you place the ladder on a firm, level surface in an area clear of obstructions.
- When on the ladder, keep your weight centred between the side rails.
- Don't stand on the top two steps of a ladder.

In a high-traffic workplace such as a school, wet floors and the potential for clutter can contribute to the risks of slips and trips. Encourage staff to follow these practices:

- Don't carry more than you can safely handle, and ensure you can see where you are going when carrying large items.
- Wear well-fitting, non-slip footwear.
- Clean floors regularly and clean up puddles or spills immediately (or mark the area to warn others).
- Use rubber mats in areas where the floors are constantly wet.
- Use slip-resistant waxes to polish and treat floors.
- Keep corridors and walkways clear of boxes and other clutter.

You may wish to ask the school to install non-slip tiling or other non-slip floor products.

Ice is an additional slipping hazard during winter months. Inspect outdoor surfaces regularly for ice buildup, and use appropriate ice clearing practices.



In the OHS Regulation

- Sections 4.39–4.41 deal with slipping and tripping hazards.
- Sections 13.4–13.6 deal with ladder use.

Resources

Available from
WorkSafeBC.com/Publications

- *Health and Safety for Hospitality Small Business*, page 6
- *Health and Safety for New Retail Workers*, page 11

Safety is everyone's responsibility!

WorkSafeBC Prevention Information Line: 604 276-3100 • Toll-free: 1 888 621-SAFE (7233)

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