

Adults Fall, Too

Trip, slip, and fall incidents primarily involve children; but parents, employees, and other adult guests experience mishaps as well. Water on the floor, cracks in the sidewalk, and icy conditions are the most common causes.

A comprehensive set of measures should be a vigilant part of your center's daily safety efforts. Implementing the tips below will help to prevent accidents from occurring.

- Place absorbent mats under water fountains to reduce the likelihood of excess water on the floor.
- Secure entryway rugs so they do not slip. Replace any rug that starts to curl-up or unravel.
- Inspect inside and out for potential tripping hazards, and remove any that you find immediately.
- If you discover a sidewalk defect, hire a contractor to determine if it is a hazard. Repair any damage quickly, and temporarily divert pedestrian traffic away from the area.
- Stow toys and avoid vacuuming during pick-up and drop-off times. Keep items such as child passenger safety seats, boxes, and extension cords out of walking paths.
- If you lease your building, determine your responsibilities for clearing parking areas and walkways of snow and debris. Even though the building owner may be responsible for clearing these areas, you should be prepared to take proactive measures to ensure the safety of your visitors.
- Implement a wet/snowy weather action plan:
 - Be prepared with additional absorbent rugs for entryways when it rains or snows.
 - Clear snow from walkways at the conclusion of any snow event.
 - Remind visitors to use caution while entering and leaving your facility during inclement weather.
 - Be on the lookout for "black ice" during freezing temperatures. ("Black ice" forms as melting water refreezes and is very difficult to see.)
 - Apply an ice melting product to walkways frequently.
 - Be sure to inspect parking areas as well. Slips and falls on ice are a common cause of employee injuries.
 - Position gutter downspouts to empty into grassy areas and away from walkways.
 - Document cleaning procedures and inspection efforts.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.