

## Clear Snow and Ice to Prevent Falls

Slip-and-fall accidents occur frequently during the winter months, mainly when snow and ice are not adequately cleared from walkways and parking lots. You can prevent these accidents by following these guidelines:

- Clear walkways of ice and snow as soon as possible. Make advance arrangements with your snow removal contractor so sidewalks, parking lots, and walkways are cleared before children arrive.
- Watch for black ice. This occurs when water melts and refreezes on dark asphalt surfaces, making it difficult to see. Downspouts and areas near curbs can become especially hazardous. Keep ample amounts of ice-melting compound on hand to treat these areas.
- Place skid-resistant, absorbent mats at all entrances. Inspect the mats frequently so they do not become tripping hazards, and replace frayed mats immediately.
- Check your floors frequently and mop up excess moisture immediately. Post “Wet Floor” signs as necessary.
- Document your efforts to keep your floors hazard free in your daily log or calendar and retain these records.

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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](mailto:safety1st@markelcorp.com).