

## You Can Reduce Slip-and-Fall Accidents

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 practical. Make advance arrangements with your snow removal vendors so sidewalks, parking lots, and walkways are cleared before clients 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.

Other proactive measures you can take to prevent slip-and- fall accidents include:

- Inspect bathrooms frequently, ideally every half hour, and clean up spills immediately.
- Apply abrasive tape and surfacing on stairs and handicap ramps, or consult a contractor for a more permanent fix.
- Make sure internal and external step heights comply with local codes. Shifts in underground foundations and cracks between risers can cause steps to exceed local code heights, creating a hazard. Have a professional contractor inspect your risers.
- Frequently inspect stairway handrails and repair loose rails immediately.

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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).