

FLOOR AND WALKWAY HAZARDS

Clean walkways are key for a safe and productive workplace. Cluttered walkways cause unsafe conditions and are often a contributing factor or a direct cause for workplace injuries.

Keeping walkways clean is important to ensure your ability to work safely.

EXAMPLES OF HAZARDS CAUSED BY MESSY WALKWAYS AND WORK AREAS:

1. SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS
2. SPRAINS AND STRAINS
3. LACERATIONS



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FLOOR AND WALKWAY HAZARDS



SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

One of the most common hazards created by messy walkways are slip, trip and fall hazards. When objects, materials, tools, hoses and equipment are not properly stored, workers are at risk of tripping. Water, moisture, oil and/or grease left on floors in work areas can result in slippery conditions creating a high risk of slipping and falling.

STRAIN AND SPRAIN

Strain and sprain injuries can result from slips, trips and falls. They can also occur when heavy items are not properly put away. When heavy or awkward objects are placed on the floor and workers are required to pick them up, there is a risk for injury. Too often, items have to be moved when there is clutter in a work area. Because of this unnecessary lifting, sprains and strains can occur.

LACERATION HAZARDS

In manufacturing operations, sharp objects are common hazards that are laceration/cut risks to workers. Sharp tools, jagged metal and sharp-edged materials can all easily cut through a glove or clothing and injure a worker. When items are not properly stored or cleaned up, the risk for laceration injuries is elevated.

REDUCING FLOOR HAZARDS

- **Evaluate Daily:** Take time during your work day to evaluate your work area, assess if there are any walkway issues and clean things up before you start work.
- **Keep Spaces Organized:** Be involved in keeping your work area organized throughout your shift and help create safe places for items to be stored or accessible.
- **Put it Back:** Take the time to return tools, unused materials or scrap parts back to a safe location. Do not leave clutter where it can be a hazard to other workers.
- **Report:** If hazards cannot be resolved safely and easily then reporting the hazard is essential to ensuring plans are made to address the clutter.

CLUTTER IN AN EMERGENCY

Keeping walkways clear is vital for worker safety in an emergency. Clutter on walkways from boxes, tools or equipment can prevent workers from reaching emergency exits, emergency response, first aid equipment, eye-wash stations and other essential items that workers need to reach quickly, safely and securely.

**REMEMBER: EVERYONE HAS A PART IN
KEEPING SPACES CLEAR FROM
WORKPLACE HAZARDS**

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