

TAKE CONTROL

Falls on the Same Level

Information to help you prevent workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes and assessing and controlling risks you can take control of health and safety in your workplace.

Areas in the workplace which could indicate there is a risk of such occurrences happening

Some things to look for include:

- Unstable, loose, uneven or worn floor surfaces;
- Unstable loads or having to reach too far to complete a task;
- Obstacles blocking people's clear view of walkways;
- People either not having or not wearing non-slip footwear;
- Unexpected changes in flooring materials (shoes, for example, grip differently on concrete compared to tiles);
- Floor surfaces which become slippery when wet;
- Low levels of light making it difficult to see;
- Slippery, wet, muddy or oily floor surfaces;
- Highly sloping floor surfaces; and
- Objects in the path of people.

Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

- Floor surfaces are kept uncluttered;
- Floor surfaces are even, stable and always kept in good condition;
- Non-slip floor surfaces are installed and maintained;
- Floor surfaces are not buffed;
- If floors are to be polished, the polish leaves a non-slip finish;
- Messes on floors are immediately cleaned up and action taken to prevent any further spills;
- Ramps are made with a gentle slope and are fitted with handrails;
- Good lighting is maintained throughout work areas;
- Good non-slip footwear is available and worn by employees;
- Floor surfaces are designed to be as continuous as possible; and
- The right floor surface is installed to suit the conditions (for example, don't use shiny tiles on a bathroom floor).

To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 47 Access and Egress.

Regulation 49 Housekeeping.

Regulation 51 Floors.

[Australian Standards](#) are available from the Master Builders Association, phone 8922 9666. Australian Standards can be viewed online by visiting the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, ph. 8999 7177.

Australian Standards applicable to this topic include:

[AS 1657](#) Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders – Design, construct and installation

[AS 3661](#) Slip resistance for pedestrian surfaces

Or please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or go to worksafe.nt.gov.au

NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.