

## Slips-Trips-Falls Main Factors and Corrective Actions

1. **Workplace design:** Poor workplace design can contribute to slips, trips, and falls. For example, inadequate lighting, narrow or cluttered pathways, and poorly designed stairs or ramps can increase the risk of accidents. The main corrective actions for workplace design are:
  - Ensure proper lighting throughout the workplace.
  - Keep walkways clear and free from clutter.
  - Install handrails on stairs and ramps.
  - Use anti-slip flooring materials.
2. **Flooring:** Slippery or uneven flooring can increase the risk of slips, trips, and falls. The composition and profile of the flooring are key factors in determining its slip resistance. The main corrective actions for flooring are:
  - Use slip-resistant flooring materials.
  - Regularly inspect and maintain flooring to ensure it remains slip resistant.
  - Repair or replace damaged or worn flooring.
3. **Contamination:** Contamination of walking surfaces can lead to slips, trips, and falls. Common contaminants include water, oil, and soap residue. The main corrective actions for contamination are:
  - Promptly clean up spills and other contaminants.
  - Use appropriate cleaning methods and materials for the type of contamination.
  - Mark areas where contamination is present to warn workers.
4. **Cleaning factors:** Cleaning factors such as the tools, methods, or products used to clean walking surfaces can also contribute to slips, trips, and falls. The main corrective actions for cleaning factors are:
  - Use appropriate cleaning methods and materials for the type of contamination.
  - Train workers on proper cleaning procedures
  - Regularly inspect and maintain cleaning equipment.
5. **Housekeeping:** Poor housekeeping practices can increase the risk of slips, trips, and falls. This includes failure to remove clutter, leaving tools or equipment in walkways, and not properly storing materials. The main corrective actions for housekeeping are:
  - Establish and enforce housekeeping policies and procedures.
  - Regularly inspect work areas and address any housekeeping issues.
  - Provide appropriate storage for materials and equipment.
6. **Environment:** Factors such as lighting, temperature, and noise can contribute to slips, trips, and falls. For example, inadequate lighting can make it difficult to see hazards, while high levels of noise can distract workers. The main corrective actions for the environment are:
  - Ensure adequate lighting throughout the workplace.
  - Control noise levels to minimize distractions.
  - Maintain appropriate temperatures to prevent slip-inducing moisture buildup.
7. **Footwear factors:** Footwear can also contribute to slips, trips, and falls. The material and construction of shoes, as well as the amount of friction they provide on the floor, are important factors to consider. The main corrective actions for footwear factors are:
  - Encourage workers to wear slip-resistant footwear.
  - Ensure that footwear is appropriate for the type of work being done.
  - Regularly inspect and maintain footwear to ensure it remains slip resistant.
8. **Work procedures:** The way that tasks are performed can also contribute to slips, trips, and falls. The main corrective actions for work procedures are:
  - Develop and implement safe work procedures.
  - Train workers on safe work procedures.
  - Regularly review and update work procedures as needed.
9. **Human performance:** Finally, individual factors such as eyesight, hearing, and balance can contribute to slips, trips, and falls. The main corrective actions for human performance are:
  - Encourage workers to report any medical conditions that could affect their balance or mobility.
  - Provide appropriate accommodations for workers with disabilities.
  - Provide regular training on safe work practices and hazard recognition.

*Ref: Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls in the Workplace | WorkSafeBC*