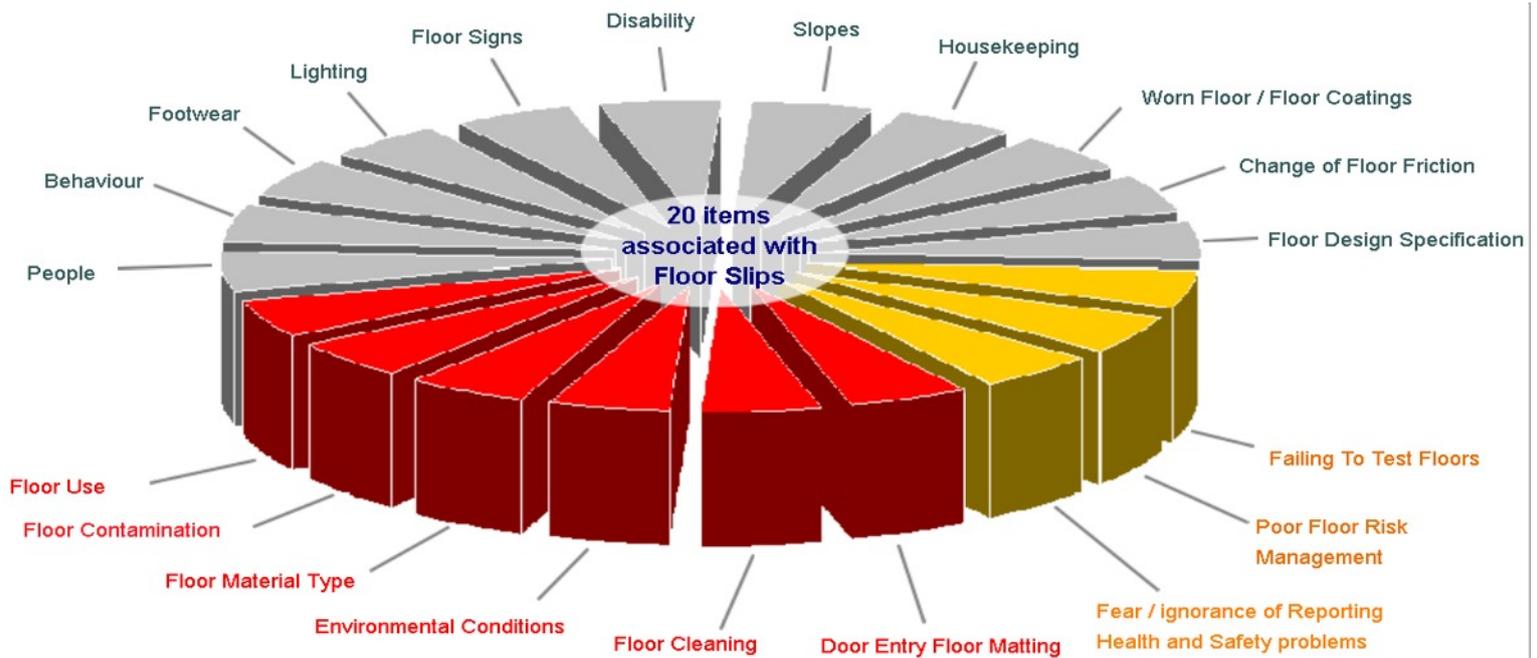


20 Items which influence Floor Slips

Consider these items in your Health & Safety Risk Management Plan



Floor Slip	Problem
Floor Use	The main issue is the floor is used for a different purpose than the one it was originally intended for. Running, Pushing and Turning quickly on the floors will also contribute to floor slips and falls
Floor Contamination	Spillages of environmental contamination such as Oil, Cooking Fat, Grease, Sawdust, Blood, Talcum Powder, Shampoo, Soap and Water, the last being the greatest cause of floor slip accidents
Flooring Material Type	Hard smooth floor surfaces contributing to floor slip especially when wet. HSE report 90% of floor slips occur on wet smooth slippery floors - Example are Marble, Stone, Vinyl, Steel etc
Environmental Conditions	Rain is probably the major culprit of floor slips aggravated by snow and ice coating a floor surface in the winter and even wind can unsettle a person on an already slippery floor, particularly if aged
Floor Cleaning	Poor floor cleaning or using incorrect methods or wrong floor products causes floor slip. It is recommended wet cleaning of floors is assigned to quiet times - i.e. hours of zero or very low footfall.
Ant Slip Matting	Incorrect size and type of mats used to prevent rain water tracking to inside flooring. Limited or no drainage of the drained off water / snow melt from non slip mats. Mats causing floor trip hazards
Fear	Employees worry reporting H & S issues will effect their positions and managers will not support them. Owners not supplying or financing safety footwear and employees will not ask for them.
Inadequate Management	Inadequate and irregular checks; poor or no risk management, owners not refurbishing or replacing worn floors. Owners ignoring Health & Safety Requirements (even after advisement)
Failure To Test Floors	No Floor Testing carried out. Floor Tests done once and then forgotten about, annual Tests recommended. Owners & managers unaware floor tests are available or required by HSE Laws.
Floor Design Specification	Owner, Builders and designers specifying floors that look good without considering its floor slip resistance or the use the floor will be put to. Not complying with Part M Building Regulations and BS 8300 Annex C for slip resistant floor surfaces
Changes of Floor Friction	Switching from one floor friction amount to a different floor friction amount (Example stepping from Marble Floor at DIN R9 to non slip Vinyl Floor at DIN R11 i.e. slippery to good or good to slippery)
Floor Coatings worn / Floor Worn	Anti slip floors and non slip floor coatings wear out (generally quicker than hard floors). Recommend regular floor testing carried out to indicate when floor replacement or refurbishment required
Housekeeping	Failure to clear away floor spills of any description (oil, food stuffs, waste products etc). Blocking gangways and corridors with packaging, cables across walkways, obstacles and rubbish not moved
Floor Signs	Not using floor signs indicating possible wet floors, poorly placed signs, incorrect warnings, floor signs themselves causing trips, slips and falls
Slopes	Incorrect floor slip resistance or angle of slope too steep to walk safely down. Particularly pertinent to wheelchair users, aged, young and physically or mentally challenged
Disabilities	Walking with crutches, Zimmer frame, a stick or using a wheelchair all require high levels of slip resistant floor materials and persons using can not respond as quickly to a possible floor slip
Lighting	Poor or broken lighting incorrect lighting or even too bright lighting will cause floor slips. Flooring edges not marked and merging together such as the edges of steps also are known to cause slip accidents
Footwear	Non slip footwear can only be controlled in the workplace and it is the responsibility of owners to provide it (at no cost). HSE advised some shoes claiming to be floor slip resistant are not effective enough
Behaviour	The speed of walking, a persons gait, the length of stride can all contribute to floor slips. Also running in areas where it is not expected - example in a shopping centre floored with Terrazzo Marble floors
People	Elderly persons, the young are inexperienced, persons tired, stressed, ill or under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs (Prescription or otherwise) are all at greater risk of falling on a slippery floor