



Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls



More workers are hurt due to slips, trips or falls than any other reason. Thousands of disabling injuries—and even deaths—occur each year. The main reason for these accidents is the walking surface.

Courtesy of www.totallandscapecare.com, here are some important practices to remember:

- Wet grass and clippings can be slick so slow down on muddy or uneven terrain. For steep slopes, walk sideways to improve traction.
- Clean up any leaks or spills on floors, stairs, entranceways and loading docks promptly.
- Wear boots that have good traction. Inspect footwear, and replace shoes when the sole has a smooth area larger than two pennies.
- If applying liquids, watch for wet areas, and don't run.
- Constantly look for hazards such as holes in the ground, bumps or unexpected changes in the terrain. If at the site for the first time, walk the grounds to note any objects, such as utilities or stumps, that could cause someone to trip or damage the equipment.
- Clean up spills immediately and mark off the area until it is dry.
- Keep cords and other clutter away from walkways. If a piece of equipment isn't being used, wrap up the cord neatly and place it out of the way. If in the office, cords can be secured with tape or cord strips.
- When carrying large objects, have another crewmember help point out obstacles, such as elevation changes, steps or new surfaces. Hold the object to the side so you can better see where you're walking.
- Look for icy patches when working in temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Hold onto the equipment if entering/exiting a machine around snow or ice.

