

## Liability

# Slip, Trip, and Fall Risk Control: Walk-Off Mats

Report Number: [LB-92-43](#)

Release Date: [March 22, 2010](#)

Section Title: [Consultations](#)

---

## Question

A property owner is experiencing claims from slip, trip, and falls. An evaluation of the incidents shows these trends: the majority of the occurrences happen on rainy days and the location seems to be near the main entrance. The property owner has a floor mat so what more could they do to reduce slip, trip, and fall incidents?

---

## Response

Slips, trips and falls contribute to numerous unintentional injuries. As a property owner, it is important that visitors and workers safely enter and leave the building. The observed trends provide enough information for further risk control assessment. The fact that a number of slips and falls are occurring on rainy days is an indicator that the matting system may not be adequate for the building operations. A matting system is defined as more than a single mat and more than one type of mat, each doing its specific job to help keep a building clean. Matting is available in many sizes and constructions to fit traffic level.

The outdoor and foyer matting is the first line of defense, scraping dirt and moisture from shoes. Images of different floor matting systems are available from floor matting system manufacturers such as 3M at: [http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en\\_US/Commercial/Care/Products-Services/Product-Information/Entrance-Matting/](http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/Commercial/Care/Products-Services/Product-Information/Entrance-Matting/).

There are two types of matting designed to scrape the foot bottom, removing debris and allowing moisture to become trapped limiting transfer of contaminants. A mat of vinyl looped construction allows dirt and moisture to fall below the matting surface, keeping shoes dry and clean. It is an ideal first mat for a matting system. The other type is an open, grooved, vinyl or rubber construction with peaked edges that provide excellent scraping action. These types of mats are considered excellent for foyers and recessed wells.

The second type of floor mat in the matting system is usually installed inside the building. The matting is designed for indoors to remove moisture and dirt not removed by the outdoor scraper matting. The length of the matting is also important. If a person walks on the mats for a length of approximately fifteen to twenty feet, then most of the debris and moisture has a chance to transfer from a shoe bottom to the matting system.

Signs that the existing mat is too short include water stains on the floor or wet footprints extending beyond the floor mat. The following industry standards are available for purchase and provide slip, trip, and fall risk control advice:

- American National Standard Institute (ANSI). *Provision for Slip Resistance on Walking/Working Surfaces*. A 1264.2. Des Plaines, IL: ANSI, 2006.
- American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). *Standard Practice for Safe Walking Surfaces*. F1637-09. West Conshohocken, PA, 2009.

## Slip, Trip, and Fall Risk Control: Walk-Off Mats

---

COPYRIGHT ©2010, ISO Services, Inc.

The information contained in this publication was obtained from sources believed to be reliable. ISO Services, Inc., its companies and employees make no guarantee of results and assume no liability in connection with either the information herein contained or the safety suggestions herein made. Moreover, it cannot be assumed that every acceptable safety procedure is contained herein or that abnormal or unusual circumstances may not warrant or require further or additional procedure.