

Did You Know? A Best Practices Guide for Floor Mats and Runners

Slips, trips, and falls result in unintentional injuries, many of them the result of slipping on wet surfaces upon entering a building. Walk-off mats, when installed and maintained properly, have been known to reduce the chance of slipping by 80% or more. According to many in the floor safety community, the majority of slips and falls could be eliminated by installing a matting system. Reducing trip hazards is as straightforward as following some essential maintenance and storage practices. By using a sequence of floor mats or a mat system, the chance of slip or fall injury is reduced. The matting system relies upon selecting mats that perform a series of functions including debris removal, moisture absorption or a combination to help keep walkway surfaces clean. This self-inspection handout asks questions about walkway safety, and any questions answered "No" should be thoroughly investigated.

	Yes	No	N/A
Mat Design ---- Did you know?			
...that different types of mats are recommended for outdoors and inside a door?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that floor mats are made of different materials, each performing a specific function to help reduce foreign material on a walkway surface?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that certain types of matting are designed to perform different functions, such as dislodging dirt, absorbing moisture, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that if walk-off mats are installed at least fifteen feet beyond an entry that they eliminate 80 percent or more slip and fall injuries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that outdoor mats made of a rubber material are designed to scrape dirt, debris, and moisture away and stop these elements from entering the building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that when indoor carpet floor mats are also installed, they can absorb any remaining moisture, preventing it from being tracked further into the building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that mats have different height profiles and that some are designed to reduce the chance of tripping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that walk-off mats are designed with a beveled edge to minimize the chance of tripping as well as to help the mat lie flat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that the vertical edge of a mat or runner should not be greater than ¼ inch (2.54 cm) because if it is, the chance for abrupt vertical change leads to a tripping hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mat Size ---- Did you know?			
...that an easy way to determine whether the mat is too short is to check to see if there are water prints or footprints on the floor beyond the last mat or an installation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that using larger mats decreases the potential for the mat sliding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...larger mats tend to be more secure due to weight and dimension?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that if mats overlap or have gaps between them, this increases the chance of a tripping hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No	N/A
...that floor mat manufacturers offer guidance for installing matting systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mat Cleaning ---- Did you know?			
...that mats absorb moisture to a point and then need to be replaced to continue to be effective?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that a spare supply of clean mats should be on hand to replace soiled mats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that mats require frequent cleaning to remove soil that is trapped in the fibers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that if a mat is not cleaned regularly, the soil stored in the mat fibers can be transferred to shoe bottoms and spread throughout the building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that if a mat is stored improperly, it could buckle, ripple, or tear and if used, could become a tripping hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that most matting system installations are missing essential planning efforts to address size, placement, cleaning, and maintenance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Return on Investment ---- Did you know?			
...that a mat system prevents dirt and contaminants from entering a building, reducing overall cleaning efforts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that floor mat system benefits entryways, foyers, machinery process areas, water fountains, drink stations, food preparation areas, and other areas where spills may occur?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that providing mats or runners during inclement weather help prolong the life of flooring surfaces?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that inspection, maintenance, and cleaning requirements are part of a housekeeping program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that training those responsible for inspecting, maintaining, and cleaning mats also helps comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's required Hazard Communication Act (HazCom)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...that monitoring slip, trip, and fall hazards and incidents can assist in identifying trends that can be used to plan and anticipate future occurrences?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>