

Beware of Stairs and Slippery Surfaces

Stairs can be dangerous, especially around construction sites. Loss of traction causes the highest number of slipping and falling accidents and is usually due to water, grease, mud or other slippery substances. Slips are more likely to happen when you hurry or run, when you wear the wrong type of footwear, or when you don't pay attention to where you're walking. Because we use stairs so often, it's easy to forget that they can be hazardous. Follow these safety precautions to avoid slipping:

- **Use handrails.**
- **Never run up or down stairs or jump from landing to landing.**
- **Never carry a load that you can't see over, especially when going up or down steps.**
- **Never store materials, tools or equipment on stairways.**
- **Always watch where you're stepping.**
- **Report broken stair treads, handrails or other unsafe conditions.**
- **Keep stairs free from water, grease, oil, dirt, mud and other slippery substances.**
- **Clean up spills immediately.**



If the Shoe Fits...

When selecting safety footwear, determine what conditions and/or hazards you face most often on the job. Shoes with neoprene soles work well for most wet or dry work surfaces. However, they're not recommended for oily conditions. Nonslip shoes and soles are the most useful when climbing ladders or scaffolds. And shoes with crepe soles are best for rough concrete, either wet or dry, but are not suggested for tile, smooth concrete or wood surfaces. Use nonskid devices such as strap-on cleats for icy conditions and slip-on covers for your shoes for encounters with oil, chemicals, grease and ice.