

SECTION 3

SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS



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SECTION 3 - SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

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3.2 Introduction

The most common cause of workplace injuries is due to slips, trips and falls (32%).

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires employers to ensure the health and safety of all employees and anyone affected by their work. This includes taking steps to control slips, trips and falls risks. Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, all risks need to be assessed – this includes the ones for slips, trips and falls.

3.3 Floor surfaces

The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 require floors to be suitable, in good condition and free from obstructions. People should be able to move around safely.

- Uneven, wet or slippery floors can hinder smooth movement, make floor surfaces unpredictable, and increase the likelihood of slips, trips and falls
- Glossy surfaces are more prone to accidents, especially with loose hair, water or product-spills lying about
- Textured industrial vinyl surfaces are often difficult to clean (especially to remove hair) and are unfriendly to trolleys, usually meaning spills or tip-overs

The preferable floor surfaces include non-slip vinyl and carpet surfaces.

3.4 Lighting

Poor lighting can adversely affect the safety of tasks in the Hair industry as it can contribute to:

- accidents and injuries
- tired, sore eyes
- headaches

Common lighting problems include too much or too little light. Poor lighting conditions cause glare and shadows, which can force workers to use

awkward body positions to perform work. To ensure the workspace is lit effectively maintain bulbs and tubes in a clean, efficient state.

3.5 Resources

For more information, see

[CK4, Slips and Trips. Hazard Spotting Checklist \(HSE\)](#)

[SLIPS02, Slips and trips: The importance of floor cleaning \(HSE\)](#)

[INDG225, Preventing Slips and Trips at Work, A Brief Guide \(HSE\)](#)

[GEIS2 Assessing the slip resistance of flooring \(HSE\)](#)

