

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Smash repair industry (including spray painters) – Slips, trips and falls

Keeping the workplace clean and tidy will go a long way toward preventing injuries from slips and trips. It will also reduce the possibility of people being cut by materials jutting out from benches, shelves etc. and will make it easier to move around the workshop.

To reduce slips in your workplace, consider:

- increasing the slip resistance of flooring, ramps and slopes by:
 - installing slip resistant flooring surfaces
 - applying treatments such as sand-blasting, coatings or acid etching to existing floor surfaces
- repairing leaking equipment such as hydraulic vehicle hoists/jacks to prevent liquids leaking onto the floor
- capturing leaking oil from vehicle engines in oil trays or similar
- using mats at entrances that stop water being tracked inside on rainy days
- extracting dust from the work area through a mechanical dust extraction system
- having procedures in place to clean up dust, spills, leaks and waste
- regularly cleaning the workplace floor (perform wet cleaning outside of work hours or dry surfaces before pedestrian traffic is allowed in the cleaned area)
- providing workers with appropriate footwear.

Trips can be minimised by:

- clearly marking walkways and ensuring tools, materials and waste are not put in these areas
- providing enough storage to keep tools, materials and waste out of walkways and work areas
- supporting electrical leads and air hoses overhead to keep them off the floor – retractable reels are good for this
- ensuring damaged floors and walkways are repaired
- minimising changes in floor level. If levels must change, ramps are preferable to steps
- ensuring adequate lighting
- painting the edges of large pieces of equipment (such as frame straighteners and vehicle hoists) in a bright colour to make them more visible.

Reducing injuries from falls can be done by:

- fitting railings to mezzanine floors and raised storage areas
- when working from a ladder:
 - make sure the person has three points of contact with the ladder or a stable object at all times
 - secure the ladder to prevent it moving
 - don't progress above the second top step of the ladder (don't count the top plate as a step)
 - don't over reach from a ladder – the person on the ladder should keep their body within the edges of the ladder
- providing anti-slip surfaces on climbing areas

- ensuring people wear footwear with adequate slip resistance, and which is suitable for the work
- providing enough light for the task being performed
- maintain equipment (such as ladders) to prevent failure.

For more information on slips, trips and falls and general workplace health and safety issues call 1300 369 915 or visit www.deir.qld.gov.au

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