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SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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TOPIC: AVOIDING WINTER SLIPS AND FALLS



Rain, snow, and ice can certainly create slippery conditions outside and inside. The best way to avoid a serious slip and fall this winter is to recognize these hazardous conditions and take the proper precautions.

- Many accidents can be prevented with a little change in dress and behavior. High heeled shoes should not be worn during inclement weather. **Flat shoes with slip resistant soles are best since they provide traction.** Use a tote bag to carry your dress shoes to and from work or lunch.
- When walking across snow or ice, be sure to take short flat steps. This allows the heels and soles of your shoes to contact the ground, thereby providing you with the maximum surface area contact. **Contact Facilities Services or Security to report an icy area or patch that you discover on campus.** Someone will respond and apply a proper ice melting product.
- When entering your building, please remember to shake your umbrella outside or over a mat. **Clean your footwear thoroughly on the floor mats or carpet.** Also, snow and ice have a tendency to stick to the soles of your shoes and will melt as your shoes warm up, causing you to slip.
- Check if mats are close enough to the doors. Move them closer if needed. **Let Facilities Services know if an area or door entrance needs a mat.**
- Once inside the building, do not walk too fast and avoid making sharp changes in direction. Always hold onto handrails when using stairs.
- Watch out for freshly mopped or waxed floors, deposits of water, coffee, tea, trash or debris left behind by others. **Report or clean up spills immediately.** Spills or water deposits should be reported to Facilities Services. However, we can all help by cleaning up spills that we see or putting up barriers, instead of walking over them. (i.e., Clean up the spill, place a chair over the area, or throw down paper towels until Facilities Services can respond.) This extra step may save someone else from falling.)
- **For our custodial staff:** During and after mopping and waxing, make sure warning signs or barriers are used to alert employees, students, and visitors of potential hazards. (i.e., wet floor signs) Keep signs stored nearby so that they are available when needed.

