

Slips and falls due to contaminants on the floor are a significant cause of injuries for employees working in healthcare. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2018, approximately 26 percent of all injuries to employees in nursing homes and residential care facilities were the result of slips, trips, or falls, with the overwhelming majority of those on same level.

Common examples of contaminants include:

- ✓ Fluids, feces, or food on the floor in patients'/residents' rooms
- ✓ Fluids or food on the floor in kitchens or dining areas
- ✓ Ice spillage around ice machines
- ✓ Oil/grease on kitchen floors
- ✓ Water tracked in from outside during rain or snow events
- ✓ Wet floors after cleanup
- ✓ Soap or water spillage below dispensers or drinking fountains

Post-spill slip and fall prevention steps include:

- ✓ If unable to immediately remove the hazard, mark it.
 - Signage should be visible (typically yellow).
 - Signage should be a minimum of 25 inches high, but taller is better.
 - Signage should be easily accessible and stored near high-risk areas.
 - Available features on signage include fans for drying and lights for improved visibility.



- ✓ Report the hazard.
 - Establish and implement a formal process for reporting hazards to the housekeeping/custodial staff.
 - Make spill cleanup a priority for the housekeeping/custodial staff.



- ✓ Clean up the hazard.
 - Use barriers to prevent pedestrian traffic into spill cleanup area.
 - If needed, create a dry lane for pedestrians near the spill area.
 - If appropriate, use dry mopping instead of wet mopping to minimize slip and fall hazards.
 - Spill pads are a relatively inexpensive and quick cleanup solution for some spills.
 - Remove signage as soon as possible once the spill is cleaned up and the area is dry.

