

Avoiding Winter Slips and Falls Snow and Ice Removal

Wait, It's not over yet!

Icy, wet and slippery conditions at the entrances and walk areas, including parking lots and stairs, present a hazard for everyone. The timely and appropriate removal of snow and ice will help prevent slips and falls on these surfaces.

What to Do

We recommend following several key controls to support the management and elimination of snow and ice related injuries for anyone coming or going from your premise or place of business.

- Ongoing regular maintenance of snow and ice removal equipment (snow blowers, plows). Documenting when the maintenance or repairs were performed and the type of services provided will help manage this process.
- 24 – hour availability to snow and ice removal services or contractors to promptly handle snow and ice occurrences.
- Provisions of adequate light to support visibility of cleared walkways.
- Year-round maintenance of parking lots, stairs, walkways to insure adequate drainage and repair of any defects.
- Proper drainage and maintenance of drains to ensure effective water removal from steps, stairs and walkways.
- Use of caution signs to inform customers, guests and visitors of possible dangers and steps to take to protect their safety.
- Prompt removal of snow or ice including any which is tracked into the building, especially at entrances/exits where individuals may congregate. Also the use of slip resistant mats and other materials at entrances to help reduce slips and falls at these areas.
- Provide regular feedback on the quality of snow and ice removal to your contractors or removal team. Utilizing a snow removal log can help to track removal efforts throughout a storm or icing event.
- Timely contacts with local weather authorities and local traffic authorities for timely updates on adverse weather conditions.

Remember when contracting snow removal services or using outside contractors to perform any service for your building, always obtain a copy of the company's certificate of insurance to assure they can financially respond in the event of a mishap. It is also a good idea to be shown as an additional insured on the contractor's certificate.