

Wayne State University Office of Environmental Health and Safety WINTER SLIP & FALL SAFETY TIPS

It's near that time of season where slips and falls occur at an increasing number here on campus. Facilities Planning and Management's Grounds Services and Custodial Services Departments do their best of keeping the sidewalks and steps to building entrances clear of snow and ice. However, there may be icy patches they may not have had a chance to get to before you've walked to your office, lab, classroom, etc.

Be aware of your surroundings and "think safety". Here is some practical advice to lessen your chances of slipping and falling during the winter months:

- Select appropriate footwear. There is no single shoe sole material that is perfect under all conditions; however, footwear with rubber or neoprene composite soles provides better traction on ice and snow than leather or plastic.
- Think about the best route to your destination and plan on a little extra time to get there. Avoid rushing, resist on taking shortcuts over snow piles or traversing areas where snow or ice removal is incomplete.
- If you have no choice but to walk on a slippery surface, bend slightly forward and shorten your stride or shuffle your feet for better stability.
- Many slips and falls occur during entry or exit from vehicles. Be particularly careful and hold on to the vehicle for support.
- If you find icy or slick conditions in your parking lot contact Parking and Transportation Services to address the situation.

When entering a building, be sure to:

- Take advantage of floor mats to remove moisture from the soles of your shoes. This will help protect you, as well as others who follow, from having to walk on wet or slippery surfaces. If floor mats are missing from entranceways, make sure you let your Building Coordinator know as soon as possible.
- Avoid walking on wet or slippery areas if possible.
- Use handrails on steps/ramps.
- Have your Building Coordinator contact Facilities Planning and Management if you come across an icy patch near your building or if snow removal is not adequate.
- Take responsibility for immediately reporting slip and fall hazards, like wet floors inside your building, so others are not exposed.

If you've slipped and fell and have injured yourself, contact your supervisor and seek medical treatment, if necessary, at WSU Occupational Health Services. Complete a Report of Injury, which can be found on the Office of Risk Management's website. Wayne State University's Office of Environmental Health and Safety hope that you have a safe and healthful winter season. Any questions, please call us at 577-1200.