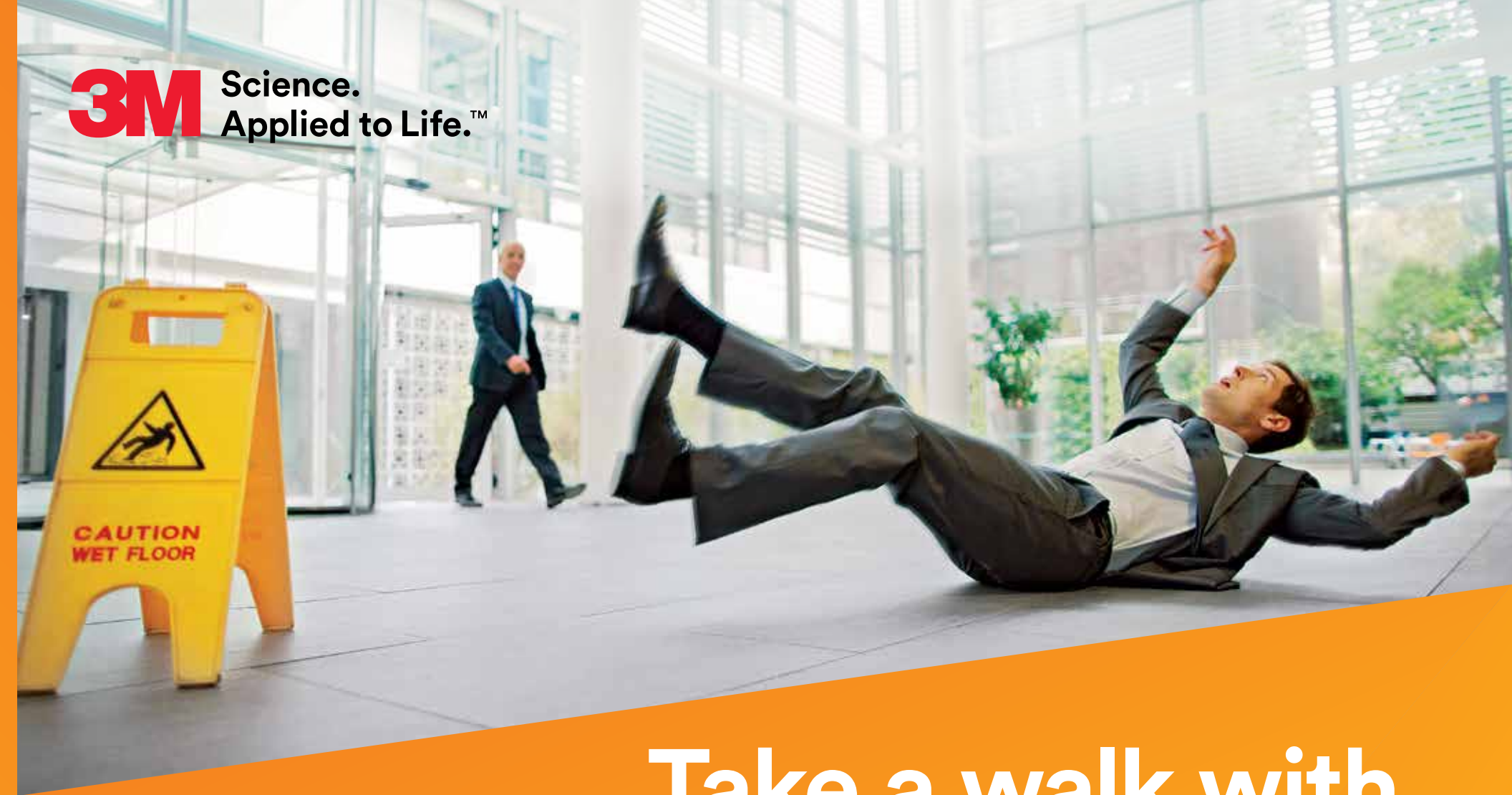


3M Science.
Applied to Life.™



Take a walk with safety in mind.

Be proactive about falls in your facility—
and stop accidents before they happen



When hundreds of people safely pass through your facility every day, it's easy to think the risk of someone suffering a slip, trip or fall is low. But according to the National Safety Council, 25,000 accidents like these occur every day in the United States — that's an average of over *17 every minute!*

The risk is real, but these accidents aren't inevitable. If you take steps to be proactive about floor safety in your facility, it's possible to reduce the chance of slips, trips and falls. One of the best ways to get smarter about preventing falls is to know your building inside and out. Let's take a few minutes to walk around your facility with eyes open for potential trouble spots.



Front entryway



The parking lot, sidewalk and front entry are guests' first impression of your facility, so it's important to make it a good—and safe—one. To get a sense of the environment, walk from the parking lot to the front door while watching for opportunities to improve safety.

- Depending on the age of your building and grounds, you may need to do a few simple repairs to help eliminate slip and trip hazards. Survey the condition of concrete, stone tile and stairs, looking for any cracks or worn areas in need of attention.
- If there are any steps or uneven areas of pavement that may be difficult to see, make sure they are clearly marked with signs, yellow paint or yellow tape. If possible, you should consider using a concrete repair solution for areas with larger cracks or gouges.
- Be mindful of the climate where your facility is located. If your area gets a lot of rain, be aware of the places where puddles form. In colder climates, snow and ice present their own unique hazards. Using ice melt, salt and anti-slip treads will help make walking surfaces less slick.
- If you haven't already, consider making a few strategic investments to help improve safety, including installing adequate handrails, anti-slip treads, matting, awnings and proper lighting.

Lobby



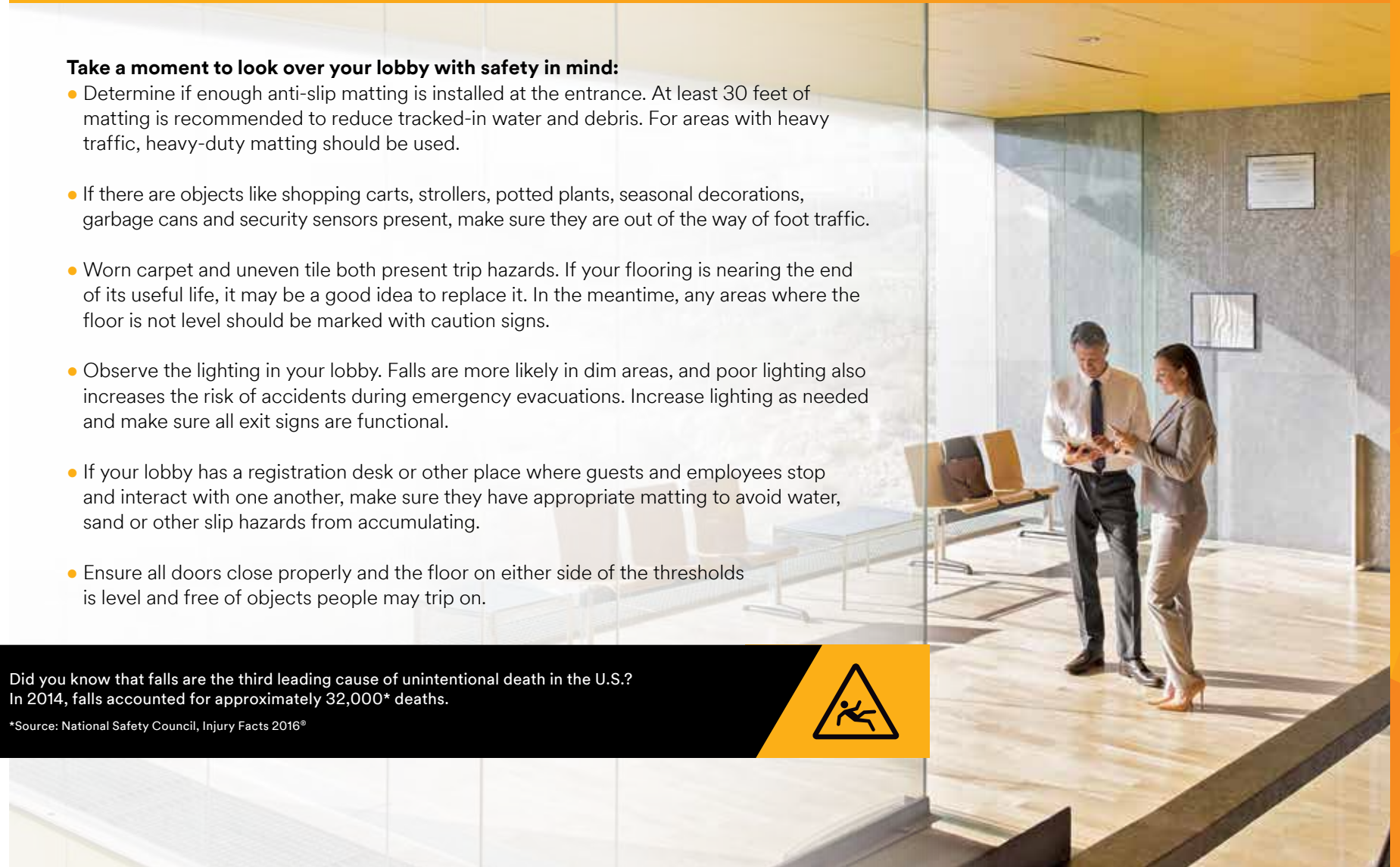
Next, we step into the lobby. This is one of the most common places to suffer a slip and fall accident because hazards from outdoors — such as water, sand or ice-melt chemicals — are easily tracked inside. The risk becomes greater as foot traffic increases, so safety should always be top of mind during the busiest times for your facility.

Take a moment to look over your lobby with safety in mind:

- Determine if enough anti-slip matting is installed at the entrance. At least 30 feet of matting is recommended to reduce tracked-in water and debris. For areas with heavy traffic, heavy-duty matting should be used.
- If there are objects like shopping carts, strollers, potted plants, seasonal decorations, garbage cans and security sensors present, make sure they are out of the way of foot traffic.
- Worn carpet and uneven tile both present trip hazards. If your flooring is nearing the end of its useful life, it may be a good idea to replace it. In the meantime, any areas where the floor is not level should be marked with caution signs.
- Observe the lighting in your lobby. Falls are more likely in dim areas, and poor lighting also increases the risk of accidents during emergency evacuations. Increase lighting as needed and make sure all exit signs are functional.
- If your lobby has a registration desk or other place where guests and employees stop and interact with one another, make sure they have appropriate matting to avoid water, sand or other slip hazards from accumulating.
- Ensure all doors close properly and the floor on either side of the thresholds is level and free of objects people may trip on.

Did you know that falls are the third leading cause of unintentional death in the U.S.? In 2014, falls accounted for approximately 32,000* deaths.

*Source: National Safety Council, Injury Facts 2016®



Aisles / Hallways



Store aisles and hallways serve different purposes, but both are used by guests and employees to move from one area of your building to another. No matter the type of facility you manage, it's important to be proactive about preventing accidents in these often-tight spaces.

- If you manage a retail store, be aware of the goods sold down each aisle. Spilled liquids, like beverages or soaps, lead to sticky and slippery floors. It is always a good idea to keep an ample supply of spill kits and sorbent material on hand for quick cleanup.
- Produce aisles and drinking fountains are common sources of standing water and should have anti-slip matting installed nearby.
- Hallways and aisles should both be free of stray objects, clean and well-lit.



The condition of the flooring in your facility matters. According to the NFSI and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 2 million fall injuries every year can be traced directly to floors and flooring materials.

*Source: National Floor Safety Institute Quick Facts

Stairs



It is especially critical to be conscientious about floor safety on stairways, which are a common site for slip and fall accidents and can often lead to more serious fall injuries.

- Begin by inspecting the condition of the flooring on the steps and note any cracked and chipped stone or frayed carpet. Because of the increased trip hazard it poses, stairway flooring should always be replaced when it becomes worn or damaged.
- Stairs with hard flooring should have anti-slip treads installed. If you already have them, make sure the anti-slip treads are securely attached to the stairs and that the abrasive surface is has not worn off the anti-slip tread.
- As with other areas of the building, poor lighting in stairways makes falls more likely. Additionally, stairwells without windows pose a unique hazard during emergency evacuations. You can help make them safer by installing luminescent treads and egress strips.
- Ensure all stairs have proper handrails installed and that all railings are in good condition without missing sections or other damage.



Restrooms



Next, our safety walk reaches the restroom.

This is an area in your facility where water is used continuously and special attention to floor safety is needed.

- Sinks, toilets and urinals are all potential sources of standing water. It is a good practice to regularly inspect these fixtures and repair any leaks that are found.
- The area beneath hand dryers and paper towel dispensers is frequently wet. You may want to consider installing mats or treads to help prevent slips.
- Spilled soap makes flooring extremely slippery, especially when it is already wet. Be vigilant about cleaning spills quickly.
- Showers and bathtub floors can be slippery—use of anti-slip treads can help provide traction.



On average, fall injuries cost U.S. employers \$70 billion* every year. With 26%* of all compensation claims related to falls, being proactive about risk is a smart financial decision.

*Source: National Floor Safety Institute Quick Facts

Patient / classroom



Schools, hospitals and office buildings all have interior rooms that may be considered semi-private space. However, it still pays to think about floor safety in the same way you would for the more public areas of your facility.

- Bathrooms in patient rooms and sinks in classrooms should be treated the same way as public restrooms. Be vigilant about reducing standing water and soap spills, and consider installing mats or anti-slip treads if water accumulation becomes a significant issue.
- Patient rooms are subject to stringent disinfection standards. If you choose to install anti-slip treads in these spaces, make sure you choose a product that can stand up to cleaning chemicals. In classrooms, there can be lots of different liquid spills, all of which may present slip hazards.
- Spill kits should be readily available so messes can be cleaned up quickly.
- Schools should be particularly vigilant about preventing accidents caused by running and horseplay.



Pool / locker room



If your facility has a pool onsite, this is yet another opportunity to help prevent accidents caused by standing water. The risks here are similar to restrooms, though falls may be even more likely because most guests will be barefoot.

- While some standing water is inevitable in the vicinity of pools and locker room showers, it can be reduced with proper drainage. Inspect the drains in these areas and make sure they are free of debris that may clog them or reduce their efficiency.
- Consider installing wet-area matting in areas without proper drainage such as locker rooms and sink areas.
- Post signs discouraging running in the pool area.
- Ensure that lighting is appropriate and emergency exits are clearly marked.
- Inspect your showers to ensure that the base substrate has enough traction to prevent a slip. If the surface is smooth and slippery when wet, consider installing anti-slip strips to provide additional traction for your guests.



Kitchen / buffet line



Kitchens and food service areas tend to have extremely high foot traffic and provide many opportunities for slippery conditions to develop. Be proactive about safety both in dining areas and “behind the scenes” to help protect guests and employees alike.

- If dining is self-service (cafeteria style), be aware of the potential for food and drink spills in high-traffic areas. Buffet lines, beverage dispensers and condiment stations should be watched closely for spills.
- Ensure garbage cans are being emptied regularly and spilled food debris is cleaned up quickly.
- Busy kitchens often accumulate spilled food and liquids on the floor. Discuss the importance of keeping floors clean and developing a general awareness of when conditions may become slippery to help prevent employee injuries.
- The area around dishwashers is frequently wet. Installing anti-slip matting can help prevent falls.
- Pay special attention to greasy floors and standing water around the dishwashing station. These areas may require a wet-area mat to help ensure shoes are staying off the grease and on a high-traction surface.
- If there are areas where employees spend significant time standing in one place, provide anti-fatigue mats to help prevent injury.

Guests over the age of 65 face increased risk of injury from falls. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), more than one out of four older people fall each year and 95% of hip fractures in the elderly are caused by falling. You can help protect older guests by staying vigilant about risks.

*Source: CDC Important Facts About Falls



Loading dock



The last stop on our floor safety walk is the loading dock.

Just like the front entrance, this is a space that blends indoor and outdoor conditions and deserves special attention.



- First, examine the condition of stone and concrete to determine if there are any cracks or chips that may pose a trip hazard.
- If there are treads and matting in the area, make sure these materials are in good condition. Always replace worn anti-slip products and consider installing them in high-traffic areas where they aren't already present.
- Ensure that staircases are clearly visible and equipped with anti-slip treads. If the edge of the loading dock is difficult to see or judge, place signage or highly visible treads that caution workers to watch their step. Lanes should also be clearly marked with reflective lines clearly marked with highly visible tapes or treads.
- If there are areas where employees spend significant time standing in one place (such as a receiving desk), place anti-fatigue mats to help prevent injury.



Now that your walk has finished, it's a good idea to take a moment to reflect on what you've learned. The better you know your building, the safer it will be.

At 3M, we offer tips and tricks for floor safety best practices, as well as a large selection of high-performance treads, mats, sorbents and luminescent strips. Work through our post-walk checklist, then visit 3M.com/floorsafety for more on how you can stay smart about preventing falls.



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Post-walk checklist



Get to know your building inside and out with a walk around the grounds with eyes open for safety.



Ensure areas with potentially slippery floors have anti-slip tread material installed, like 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads.



Place floor mats, such as 3M™ Nomad™ and Safety-Walk™ Matting, in areas that frequently become wet.



Keep a supply of sorbent material on hand to quickly clean up slippery spills like food, beverages and soap/detergents. Try 3M™ Maintenance Sorbents.



Be sure all areas of your building have adequate lighting, paying especially close attention to staircases and egress areas.



Remove stray objects such as shopping carts and misplaced merchandise from areas where they could pose a trip hazard.



Repeat your facility walk at least once per week to stay proactive about preventing slips, trips and falls.