

# LOSS PREVENTION

Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions

## HIP

HOSPITALITY  
INSURANCE  
PROGRAM

[www.HIPinsurance.ca](http://www.HIPinsurance.ca)



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Group Insurance Solutions

## Slip and Fall Claims are Rising!

The most frequent cause of slip and fall accidents is water or debris on the floors at the entrances, on stairs, and in the parking lots.

Early spring snowfalls along with warmer daytime temperatures present slip and fall hazards both inside and outside your business. These hazards often lead to injuries followed by lawsuits.

### Inside:

Slushy snow sticks to customer's shoes and boots as they enter your business making the floor and mats wet and slippery. Many falls occur where customers step off the mats onto the tile floors.

### Outside:

Fresh or melting snow can lead to water puddles that can turn your entrance, sidewalks and parking lots into giant ice patches. Areas where downspouts drain near or onto walkways may become hazardous.

### Simple Solutions:

1. Straighten buckled or curled floor mats frequently. Check to ensure that the floor is dry at the ends of the mats. **Document in your maintenance log sheet.**
2. Clean wet floor mats or replace with dry mats frequently
3. Extend the length of the entrance floor mats during wet weather to give customers more time to remove snow and water from their shoes.
4. Place "Caution - Wet Floor" signs prominently at the end of the floor mats.
5. Place "Caution - Slippery When Wet" signs on the entrance doors during these periods. (Do not leave signs up when not needed.)
6. Promptly clean snow and check for icy patches at the entrances, on sidewalks and areas around spouts and handicapped parking spots. (Do not let it build up.) **Document in your maintenance log sheet.**
7. Apply sand and salt regularly during store hours to prevent slipping. **Hint: Salt is ineffective below -10 C.**

### Importance of Proper Documentation:

A recent court decision found a business not responsible for a slip and fall accident due to its floor maintenance program which was evidenced by regular, properly completed sweep logs.

### Documentation is the Key to a Sound Defense:

Use the sweep log sheets consistently to record ALL inspections, sweeping, mopping, spill clean up, mat straightening, snow and ice removal and sand/salt applications.

## Well-Documented Sweep Logs Can Save You Money!