

Spills

You know the drill, clean up that spill.



Slips and trips as the result of a **serious workplace hazard such as a spill**, can cause significant injuries, long recovery times and, in some cases, death.

Many slips and trips happen suddenly and in areas we walk through every day.

SafeWork SA is taking action through its Safety at work is a serious job campaign because risks associated with spills continue to cause **significant harm to South Australian workers.**

Why spills matter

- Slips and trips are the **second most common cause** of workplace injury, after hazardous manual tasks
- From 2022 – 2025 slips and trips contributed to **191 serious injuries and 5 workplace deaths** in South Australia
- ReturnToWork SA data shows there are around **2500 injury claims** related to slips and trips per year, **costing about \$73 million**
- Many incidents occur during **routine tasks** and in everyday work areas, making them **easy to underestimate**



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Simple ways to reduce the risk

✓ Keep floors and walkways safe

- Clean up spills **immediately**
- Use warning signs when floors are wet or slippery
- Keep walkways clear of clutter and obstacles

✓ Watch where you're going

- Take extra care on stairs and steps
- Maintain **three points of contact** when using stairs
- Slow down – rushing increases the risk of a slip

✓ Wear the right footwear

- Choose footwear suitable for the work environment
- Make sure footwear provides good grip and support

✓ Speak up

- Report spills, damaged flooring and trip hazards
- Report near misses so hazards can be fixed before someone is hurt

Workers must:

- Clean up spills immediately or report them
- Keep work areas tidy and free of trip hazards
- Wear appropriate footwear
- Use stairs and walkways safely
- Take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others

Employers must

manage the health and safety risks associated with slips and trips by:

- **Eliminating risks**, so far as is reasonably practicable
- If elimination is not possible, **minimising risks**, so far as is reasonably practicable

This includes a systematic approach to:

- Identifying hazards
- Assessing risks where needed
- Implementing and maintaining control measures
- Reviewing control measures regularly

Remember

- Spills don't fix themselves
- Slips and trips can be fatal
- You know the drill – clean up that spill



Safety at work is a serious job.

For more information and resources, visit safework.sa.gov.au/safety-at-work-is-a-serious-job/slips or scan the QR code.



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