



SAFETY BRIEF

TRIP HAZARDS

5 POTENTIAL HAZARDS YOU MIGHT MISS

1. **Sunken sidewalk sections:** Weather, moisture and tree roots can all cause sidewalk sections to heave, creating a raised edge that could trip somebody.
2. **Low-lying objects:** Watch for cords, hoses or other trip hazards that lie close to the ground.
3. **Blind corners or visual distractions:** When turning a corner, check for objects that might be hidden from your view.
4. **Uneven surfaces:** Just a ¼-inch change in elevation is enough to trip a person, so look for cracked sidewalks or other uneven surfaces.
5. **Floor mats:** Mats that are designed to absorb water or clean your shoes can become a hazard when they start to curl at the edges, become wrinkled or slide out of place.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Once you spot a trip hazard, take action.

- If the hazard can be safely and easily fixed, go ahead and do it. For example, move an unused extension cord out of a walkway or straighten a wrinkled mat.
- If the hazard requires more time and work to repair, such as a raised sidewalk section, mark it in a way that warns others (e.g., spray paint, a caution sign or an orange cone). Then report it to someone who can authorize the repair, such as a supervisor or maintenance department.



Just a ¼-inch change in elevation is enough to trip you up



Home Office: 717 Mulberry St. | Des Moines, IA 50309 | 800-447-2295 | www.emcins.com |

Disclaimer: This material is designed and intended for general information purposes only, and is not intended, nor shall be construed or relied upon, as specific legal advice.
©Copyright Employers Mutual Casualty Company 2016. All rights reserved. RI0301