

## BEST PRACTICES

# Wet Floor Precautions In Healthcare Facilities



**Slip and fall prevention requires a team effort. It is everyone's responsibility. Here are some best practices for mopping floors in healthcare facilities.**

- The use of microfiber mop heads is preferred as they do not require a lot of water thus allowing quicker drying times. If using cotton mop heads, wring the mop to reduce the amount of water/cleaner on the flooring surface.
- When mopping corridors and hallways, mop one side at a time with a "wet floor" sign placed slightly to the side being mopped. It is preferred to use a "wet floor" sign with an arrow at the top pointing to the side being mopped. This will reduce confusion to visitors and others as to which side is wet.
- When mopping patient rooms, use a wet floor sign at the edge of the door opening placed at a 45 degree angle. This will reduce the possibility of a trip and fall on the sign.
- When mopping elevator landings, keep in mind this is a potentially dangerous situation for anyone exiting the elevator. Choose a time when traffic in the facility is lighter. Use of a microfiber mop head is preferred as the area can dry quicker. Use of a fan and a wet floor sign is recommended. The same procedures apply for mopping inside the elevator car.
- For restrooms, use a sign on the door stating: "Restrooms are being cleaned, enter with caution". If possible, use doorway signs that stretch across the door opening to limit traffic. Have towel dispensers located as close to sinks as possible to reduce the amount of water spilled onto the floor.
- For common and waiting areas, use of wet floor signs and minimum amounts of liquid is extremely important.
- As a general rule, proper use of wet floor signs is critical. Signs should be placed during cleaning and removed when surfaces are dry. Signs left out for long periods of time lose their effectiveness.
- Use of the proper amount of cleaner for the flooring surface and the treatment on the floor. This is important to avoid a film on the floor, increasing slip potential.
- For spill cleanup, a good procedure is to have the staff member that identifies the spill stay with it and notify someone to gather the items needed to dry it. It is important to blot the spill and clean it without mopping a large area thus creating more of a hazard.



**MALPRACTICE TRUST**

**THE PHYSICIANS TRUST**

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