

Best Practices for Cleaning or Mopping Food Service Floors



Slip, trip and fall accidents can occur when floors are cleaned during business hours, but the risk can be mitigated/prevented. Areas requiring attention include:

- Just inside the entrance doors
- Lobbies
- Foyer
- Front counter/desk
- Dining area
- Restrooms
- Around self-service drink station
- Food ordering area/check out area

Employees should use non-business or slow business hours to wet clean the floors. “Wet Floor” signs can be posted to warn customers of the hazard; however, this can still present the chance for slip and fall accidents.

The following procedures are recommended:

- **Use a dry mop in conjunction with a wet mop:** The dry mop should be used to dry the floor after cleaning with the wet mop. This will reduce the drying time and minimize a wet floor hazard. Dry mopping is required to have a successful slip, trip and fall prevention program.
- **Separate mops:** Separate mops should be used for the front of the house for the back and bathrooms. This will help minimize the transfer of grease from the kitchen into the dining area, and bacteria from the restroom into other areas of the restaurant.
- **Barricade wet floor section being cleaned and post “wet floor” signs:** The area being mopped should be monitored by personnel and barricaded, preventing customer access. “Wet Floor” signs should be posted until the area is dry and safe to walk on. The fastest way to allow customers and staff access to the floor area is by dry mopping the wet floor.
- **Mop floors in sections:** It is recommended that staff should mop the floor in sections, which will allow customers access on a safe and dry floor. Once a section is clean and dry, it can be accessed by customers, and another section or area of the floor can be barricaded and cleaned. By cleaning in sections, your customers will have a dry path to walk.
- **Close restrooms until the floor is dry:** Restrooms should be closed for use by customers after mopping until the floor is dry. To help speed up the drying process, a dry mop should be used after wet mopping. A designated mop should be used when cleaning restrooms.
- **Inclement weather policy:** Procedures should be in place to address snow, ice and rain. A snow and ice removal policy should be in place, and additional precautions should be taken during wet weather to ensure the floors remain dry. This can be accomplished through dry mopping of the floors periodically throughout the day

Remember, the secret for true success in preventing slip, trip and fall accidents is dry mopping. Following this and the other procedures above helps enhance a safe environment for visitors and staff.