



Workplace Safety

Video: 3 Unexpected Ways Shop Floor Matting Keeps Workers Safe

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Video Highlights

Mats can help prevent slips, trips and falls—which is a major area of concern for safety managers.

OSHA's requirements for walking and working surfaces offer general guidance, but the ANSI standards give safety managers more context and more helpful parameters.

There is a variety of matting for the plethora of working conditions out there, including matting focused on better grip for slippery or wet areas, as well as conductive and non-conductive matting for the range of work environments where electricity is in play.

Matting matters—especially when trying to reduce the likelihood of injury in an industrial plant facility or manufacturing environment. The National Safety Council's "2017 Injury Facts" shows that slips, falls and trips accounted for 27 percent of days away from work, second only to overexertion and bodily reaction.

What kind of floor mat is the best for your workplace facility and environment? While natural rubber matting is inexpensive and works well in dry areas or areas wet from just water, it won't fare well with chemicals. Materials such as ground-up glass can add grit and grip to the surface of a mat, and textures on the surface can also increase the slip resistance.

Beyond injuries, there is also absenteeism to deal with from prolonged standing. Being upright on a hard surface every working day can lead to leg pain, back pain and varicose veins. Once employees are suffering, they start calling in sick, unable to work. Anti-fatigue mats, typically made with a layer of sponge, help reduce the stress of prolonged standing.

Learn the ins and outs of matting in this video.

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