

Facility & Grounds Winter Safety Tips



Avoid injuries and keep your facility safe by taking basic winter precautions.

Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls

- Have a plan to monitor and remove snow and ice from stairs, pathways, parking areas, entry ways, sidewalks and emergency exits.
- Keep winter supplies on hand, such as sand, salt, a snow shovel, warning cones, floor mats and “Wet Floor” signs.
- Apply sand and salt on steps and walkways to provide additional traction/reduce ice accumulation.
- When removing snow around a door, ensure that the door can fully open.
- Keep entry ways and lobby areas dry by using absorbent rugs or floor mats.
- Use “Wet Floor” signs near entry ways to warn employees and visitors of the hazard.
- Check that handrails are secure.
- Remove overhead icicles and clean snow from steeply pitched roofs. If unable to remove ice and snow right away, post signs or cones warning people not to walk or park under these areas.
- Clean gutters and make sure downspouts do not drain into walkways or sidewalks.
- Keep entry ways, pathways and parking areas illuminated at night. This is especially important with the shorter winter daylight hours.

Grounds and Building Maintenance

- Apply heat-shrink plastic over older single-pane windows to reduce energy consumption.
- Test back-up generator (if you have one) for proper functioning; make sure there is adequate fuel.
- Ensure that sump pumps are operational.
- For dwellings with fossil-fuel burning equipment or enclosed parking areas, be sure carbon monoxide detectors are installed (and properly functioning) on every level of the dwelling and within ten feet of each sleeping area and in habitable portions of basements and attics.
- During long periods of extreme cold, such as prolonged temperatures of 5-10 degrees or below, do the following: 1.) Set thermostat at or above 68°; 2.) Have a custodian check vacant buildings twice a day for frozen pipes by opening water taps and checking radiators.

Notes:
