

Why preventing slips, trips and falls in our buildings is so

IMPORTANT



SIMPLE MISTAKES CAN SHATTER LIVES

IN NORTH AMERICA:

Each year over
540,000
slip-fall injuries require hospital care.

Slip falls kill more workers than all other combined forms of workplace accidents.

Slip falls are the second leading cause of accidental death and disability after automobile accidents.



Slip falls kill
55
people per day.

Slip falls result in a healthcare expenditure of
\$100 000 000
per day.

Slip falls are the number one cause of accidents in the home, workplace, hotels, restaurants and public buildings;
70%
of these occur on flat and level surfaces.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:

Slips and falls result in
35,000
injuries annually
8,500
of those being major injuries.

Slips and falls cost the health services
£133 000 000
annually.



Slips and falls cost employers
£512 000 000
annually.

Slips and falls are the **most common cause of injury** at work in the UK
(1 in 3 non-fatal major injuries).

IN SOUTH AFRICA MINIMAL STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE BUT...

The increase in the number of older persons in Africa, together with longevity, will expose a greater number to a risk of falls. Of an estimated
6.26 million
hip fractures globally in 2050, **4.43 million (71%)** are expected to occur in developing countries, including Africa.

Falls are the leading cause of injuries among children around the world, including South Africa.



The SA Compensation commissioner reports a total of
200 000 to **220 000**
workers claims per year, many of which have resulted in either loss of life, loss of quality of life and have incurred suffering.

The most common fall injuries among children under 13 in SA occur while walking or running at the child's home, school or crèche.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE OR COMPENSATION!

THE SA LAW AROUND COMPENSATION FOR FALLS IS COMPLEX BUT THE MOOD IS CHANGING:

In 2012, a Johannesburg woman **won a million rand settlement against a shopping centre** for a slip resulting in a back injury.



A 2013 'Slip and fall ... Who is liable' expert opinion article explains that **"Our courts have found that the law does not require a shopper in a supermarket to examine the floor or whether his/her footing would be safe for each step he makes, and that a shopper is entitled to move freely while focusing on the shelves and the products on offer"**.

WHERE DOES THE RESPONSIBILITY LIE?

It is an architects 'duty of care' to ensure that steps are taken during the design of a building to minimise and prevent slips, trips and falls.

