

# SAFETY CONVERSATION

## SC6 - Floor Cleaning

### CUT IT OUT SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

#### WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN

In this safety conversation you will learn about risks of slips and trips associated with floor cleaning in the workplace. Mopped floors are significant in causing slips and trips incidents and contribute as the direct cause to over 12% of injuries to our colleagues and customers. **So what can we do to Cut It Out?**

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Cleaning systems** - Wet floors can be caused by several factors and cleaning is one of them. We use a range of equipment to clean floors, the vast majority involve physical effort and a cleaning system, whether it is a mop and bucket, electric scrubber cleaner, or ride on equipment, they all can increase the risk of slips, trips, and falls. The equipment you use must be serviceable to ensure it is effective. Remember to follow the correct procedures and methods you have been trained in for cleaning the floor – don't cut corners! **Don't forget to use the wet floor signs and take them away when the floor is dry.**
- **How can I clean the area safely?** - It is important you plan mopping / scrubbing the floor ahead to ensure the area you clean is secured, and no one slips on it, including yourself. Some top tips to prevent slips on mopped floor: wear appropriate slip-resistant footwear; clean in sections, so there is a dry path through the area; clean during quiet times, when pedestrians are not around; physically exclude from wet cleaning areas, by closing of the area or using physical barriers while the floor is wet; **ensure others are made aware that cleaning is in progress, by using wet floor sign or barriers** – remember to remove them once the floor is dry.
- **We are all at risk** - Wet floors are part of the workplace for all of us and by being vigilant and mindful we can prevent slips, trips and falls. Whether you are a pedestrian, or cleaning of the floor is a part of your job, you have the same responsibility of being cautious when floor cleaning is carried out. Watch out for any wet floor signs or trailing wires from buffing machines or vacuum cleaners. Don't enter the area if it is being cleaned, use an alternate route when instructed to do so. **Remember- Safety First In Everything We Do!**

#### FOLLOW RULES

- Use the correct equipment and cleaning procedure for the task
- Wear your safety footwear and control access to the area you have cleaned or secured.



#### BE MINDFUL

- Report any near misses and communicate them to your colleagues
- Use your equipment carefully - leave it in the right place, and don't overfill mop buckets to avoid spillages



#### SPEAK OUT

- Ensure others are made aware that the floor cleaning is in progress
- Report any damage or disrepair to the cleaning equipment



#### GET INVOLVED

- Raise the safety matter at your team, and if nothing is done tell your line manager
- If you have an idea on how to improve the floor cleaning process tell your line manager



#### PUTTING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT INTO PRACTICE

Floor cleaning can cause or prevent slips and trips. Let's discuss what we can do improve safety when mopping/scrubbing the floor.

- How can we secure the area when mopping/scrubbing?
- Can we improve the process or the cleaning method?
- What do you do when see a wet floor sign?