

Ask a KKC Attorney



Attorney Matthew Willis

Q: I own a local business. What is the best way to protect myself from a slip and fall lawsuit?

A: Because of the financial risks involved in a slip and fall accident, it's important to do everything you can to prevent them. Here are a few things to consider:

1. **Keep up with routine maintenance on sidewalks, walkways, and stairs.** Remove roots, rocks, weeds, and twigs. Correct any structural deficiencies.
2. **Use carpets and grip materials on slippery surfaces.** Rugs and mats are great for entryways and allow people to remove debris, water, or mud. Grippers can improve traction on stairs. Railings are also helpful *and required along a stairway*. Make sure carpets are secured to the floor.
3. **Turn on the lights.** You need adequate lighting inside and outside. Replace bulbs regularly.
4. **Secure electrical cords and wires.**
5. **Be aware of weather conditions.** If rain is collecting near an entrance, it may be wise to direct people to another door. If there's wind, you may need to collect twigs and debris that gather on walkways. Remove snow and ice from sidewalks, walkways, steps, and driveways, and put down sand or salt to provide additional traction.

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