



CRUM & FORSTER®

A FAIRFAX COMPANY

RISK ENGINEERING



WELCOME

SLIP, TRIP AND FALL PREVENTION

Floor Mat Selection and Placement

Floor mats are critical to any slip, trip, and fall prevention program. Floor mats are used to collect moisture and dirt that can be tracked in when people enter a building. Mats should not be used to cover up safety hazards like leaks or spills. Although floor mats are utilized to reduce slips and falls, they can also become a cause of these incidents if they are not properly selected for the environment and properly maintained. As you develop and deploy your slip, trip and fall program, floor mats should receive high priority.

Contact Information

Reporting Claims or Loss

24-hour toll free number:
1.800.690.5520

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riskengineering@cfins.com

Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention

Floor Mat Selection and Placement

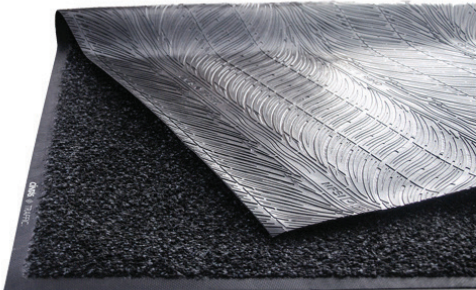
Floor Mat Types and Characteristics

A major factor to consider in selecting a floor mat is the location in which it will be used. The goal is to use a high quality mat that can remove moisture and soil from footwear so that the floor areas inside the store are kept cleaner and drier during inclement weather.

There are many types of floor mats, and some are used to remove soil and moisture. These include wiper, wiper-scraper, and scraper mats. Though not often used in small retail establishments, metal recessed well mats are also a good system for capturing moisture and soil. They have the safety benefit of not having the sometimes curled or raised edges that accompany mats that sit atop a floor.

Some descriptions:

- Wiper Mats – Designed for indoor use to remove moisture, dust, contaminants and other fine soil from footwear after a patron has first used a wiper-scraper or scraper mat.




FEATURES AND BENEFITS

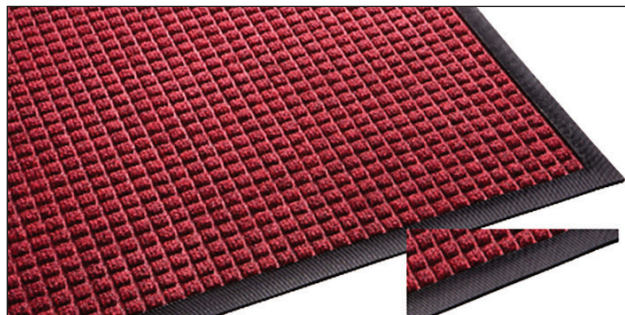
- High performance tire tread technology grips the floor better
- Heavier rubber backing decreases mat movement
- Granite fabric pattern hides dirt and enhances your image

NATIONAL FLOOR SAFETY INSTITUTE (NFSI) CERTIFIED

All Cintas mats are certified high traction by the National Floor Safety Institute (NFSI).



- Wiper-Scraper Mats – These mats are used to remove and retain moisture, contaminants, dust, and fine soil from footwear when a patron first steps into a building. These mats can be used outside a front entrance, but are more durable and effective when used inside a front entrance.



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- **Scraper Mats** – These mats are designed to remove coarse material from footwear. These mats tend to have deep channels and drainage holes to remove the moisture. Scraper mats can be all rubber, which works well outside a front entrance, or have a carpet facing for just inside a front entrance. To remove the most soil and moisture, this mat is usually encountered first by patrons as they walk inside a front door.



- **Kitchen Mats** – These mats are slip resistant to water and grease and allow debris to fall through holes in the mat.



Things to Consider in Floor Mat Construction

- Select a high quality mat.
- Mats with rubber reinforced backing generally do not curl or develop ripples around the edging, (as vinyl-only mats sometimes do).
- Rubber backed mats, especially those with cleats, tend not to move along the floor when walked on.
- Consider buying or using third party mat vendors, preferably those that are certified by the National Floor Safety Institute (NFSI). Cintas is one major supplier of floor matting, and it offers detailed information that can help you select the right floor matting for your needs.
- Obtain floor mats that are rated as "high traction" by the NFSI. These mats will provide a greater level of slip resistance.
- Edging is important. Does the mat you're looking at have a flat or a beveled edge? A beveled edge allows for a smoother transition between the floor and the mat, reducing the chance of a trip.

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- The length of mat will vary depending on your location and weather conditions. Longer mats and those with dense carpet on top take longer to become water saturated. It is estimated that it takes about five or six steps or at least 12 feet of carpet matting to remove about 80% of the soil and moisture from footwear. Evaluate your experience and if you think the matting in use is not removing an adequate amount of soil and moisture, you may want to consider the type, quality and length of your floor mats.

Location of Floor Mats

Where you place floor mats will depend on the elements you encounter. In the south, you may only deal with rain and some dirt conditions. In the northern part of the country, there is snow. There may also be greasy conditions found in kitchens. Floor mats may be appropriate in places where previous slips, trips, and falls have occurred. Some of the most common areas to place floor mats are:

- Entrances. Most place mats only inside the store, but can be placed outside as well to further decrease chance of slips, trips, and falls.
- Behind and in front of the cashier counter
- Near the beverage and coffee stations, close enough to capture or dissipate any spills
- Near ice machines, close enough to capture and dissipate any spilled ice
- Below sinks, in all food handling and cleaning or maintenance areas
- Floor mats in kitchens or around the sink areas should be selected for being used in wet processes. These mats are likely to get wet more often.
- Sink prep area mats should be equipped with drainage holes to capture dirt, food, and other contaminants. The holes allow the food to drop onto the floor and become less of a potential slip hazard.

Maintenance of Floor Mats

- Inspect mats regularly throughout the day and as often as each hour during times of inclement weather, such as rain and snow.
- If using a vendor, do not rely on them only to change floor mats, and bear in mind that the use of a vendor does not relieve an owner of the duty to maintain its property in a safe condition. Understand the contract between your company and the floor mat vendor and know which party has the responsibility of mat maintenance and what the replacement conditions are. There may be times between servicing when floor mats need to be either replaced or water removed with a wet/dry vacuum. Continue to inspect mats daily and inform the vendor should there be any deficiencies.
- Your floor mat configuration should be designed and placed so as not to create additional fall hazards.
- Clean under mats to help prevent dust, dirt, and moisture from causing mats to slide and move.
- Vacuum mats daily.
- Rotate mats regularly. The rotation will depend on your environment and experience.
- Floor mats should never overlap.
- Do not use mats to prop open doors.
- Wet/dry vacuum or replace mats when they become saturated.
- Be aware of delamination, a separation between the rubber backing and the underside of the carpet surface. Remove any mats that show signs of delamination.

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- When mats start to bunch up, buckle, or curl they can become a tripping hazard. These mats should be replaced immediately. A good, high quality mat will be less likely bunch up. If mats tend to buckle, consider purchasing a heavier mat with thicker backing.
- If corners or edges of mats start to curl or ripple, replace them. Select mats with heavy rubber edging to prevent curling.



Vinyl backed mats tend to curl, buckle and not lay flat, creating a tripping hazard.

Online resources:

www.nfsi.org

www.cintas.com

www.floormatshop.com

www.uline.com

Cintas has created a valuable resource on the importance of proper floor matting, which can be found at National Floor Safety Institutes website at:

<https://nfsi.org/cintas-releases-white-paper-on-the-importance-of-proper-floor-matting/>

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