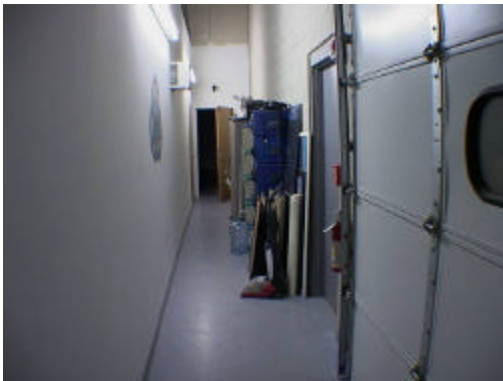


# PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

## Walking and Working Surfaces



Falls resulting from slips and trips are a major cause of injury for pest control technicians. Conditions at an account can change from one visit to the next and we, as a person providing a service during a brief stop, have little control over the premises we visit. Our best defense to avoid injury is to be aware of the hazards present.

Stairways and walkways at homes and businesses are sometimes neglected areas for maintenance and cleaning. Often, the general public does not utilize the stairs or walkways you utilize when servicing an account and therefore they can become cluttered or in disrepair. Take the time to check the condition of your walking/working surfaces when you arrive at your destination.

- Check stairs and walkways for debris and potentially slippery substances such as ice, snow, water, oil, or grease.
- Check to be sure your path is free of tools, equipment and other materials.
- When walkways and stairs are provided, use them. Don't compromise your safety to save a few steps or a few seconds. Hopping off loading docks or jumping over curbs or ditches saves no time or money if you are injured and cannot work.
- Be aware that handrails can become loose. Mention any problem to the right person, such as a supervisor or the homeowner.
- Secure electrical cords and hoses so that they do not create a tripping hazard for you.
- Take small steps on wet and icy walkways. Use handholds to stabilize yourself when they are available.
- Asphalt and oiled surfaces can also be hazardous because rainwater may produce oil sheen and create slippery walking conditions.

Unlike some exposures, stairway and walkway hazards can appear overnight and certainly between your visits to that location. Protect yourself by being mindful of your path of travel.

