

Using Grippers & Preventing Slips - Trips - Falls

Although traction aids can improve traction in most outdoor winter conditions, no product can completely prevent a slip or fall on slippery surfaces. Do not be lulled into a false sense of security when your grips are in use. ***Always use caution when walking through snow and ice.***

Here are some tips to help make winter walks safer for you while walking in inclement weather.

When to use grippers:

- Wear Grippers when icy conditions warrant their use. Carriers should use his/her best judgment when/when not to wear grippers.
- Snow covered ice
- Icy surfaces
- Supervisors should provide grippers to carriers if requested.

Use extreme caution wearing grippers in the following circumstances (use your common sense and judgment):

- Inside buildings
- Slippery porches or steps. *(Especially on wood painted steps & porches).*
- Concrete steps.

Hazards should be reported:

- Under icy surface conditions, avoid steps that haven't been cleared.
- Carriers should report hazards such as slippery painted porches/steps, broken or no handrails or damaged or rotted steps.
- Have mailboxes moved off porches when hazardous.
- Supervisors should ensure these hazards are abated with the customers.
- **Withhold Delivery if Ice or Snow Covered Steps Prevent Safe Access to Box.** Notify your supervisor.

Use Proper Stride on Slippery Surfaces. "Walk Like a Penguin"

- Take shorter steps or shuffle for stability.
- Walk flat footed with toes pointed slightly outward.
- Always use handrails.

Mounting and Dismounting Vehicle.

Use extra precautions when entering and exiting vehicles. Use the vehicle for support.

- * **Finally, remember when entering buildings *remove snow and water from footwear to prevent creating wet slippery conditions indoors.***