

Sidewalk Inspection Checklist

Pedestrian falls on sidewalks often result because the sidewalk is not maintained in a reasonably safe condition (e.g., in good repair or free of snow, ice, and other materials). Regular sidewalk inspection is an important tool for identifying hazardous conditions that require correction. This checklist highlights areas that should be considered when inspecting existing sidewalks for safety concerns.

Sidewalk Construction

Are any of the following construction defects present:

- Missing sidewalk flags?
- Large cracks, missing pieces, or other substantial structural defects?
- Improperly sloped flags or pavement?
- Loose or otherwise unstable flags?
- Uneven settlement or heaving?
- Raised surface impediments (e.g., sewer drain plugs or improperly set manways and junction boxes)?
- Hazardous conditions (e.g., excessive deflection, change in surface texture, or lack of structural integrity) caused by gratings or other flush-set items?
- Hazardous conditions created by improper sidewalk repairs?

Temporary Hazards

Are any of the following temporary hazardous conditions present:

- Puddled water?
- Snow and ice?
- Sand, dirt or mud?
- Leaves, fallen branches or twigs?
- Oil, grease, or other foreign substance?
- Construction barricades or scaffolding?

Other Areas of Concern

- Are curb edges clearly marked?
- Are curb heights excessive?

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- Are ramps and other accessible sidewalk features sloped properly?
- Do bicycle racks, planters, retail displays, or other man-made objects obstruct pedestrian traffic?
- Do tree limbs or other overhanging objects pose a substantial hazard to pedestrians?

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