

## Trip Hazard

Definition: Hazard caused by an abrupt change in vertical elevation or horizontal separation on any walking surface along the normal path of travel. A trip hazard must meet either of the following criteria:

- a 3/4 inch or greater vertical difference on a walking surface, OR
- a 2-inch horizontal separation perpendicular to the path of travel

Name tripping hazard, walking hazard, obstacle  
Variants:

Most Common Materials: N/A

Most Common Components: N/A

## Location and Inspection of Trip Hazards

Abilities or Knowledge Needed:

- Visual acuity for location & inspection
- Mobility for access to all areas of the property

Tools for Location & Inspection

Useful: none

Required: length measuring device

Common Locations:

Unit/Inside: hallways, floors, stairwells, patios, elevators

Outside: walkways, stair treads, parking lots, driveways, patios, pool decks, ramps, play areas.

How to Locate:

Visual Observation: Look at the floor and ground to identify significant difference in vertical elevation or horizontal separation.

Possible Deficiencies:

Deficiency 1: Trip hazard on walking surface

## Deficiency 1: Trip hazard on walking surface

Rationale: Maintenance: Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.

Health and Safety: Reduces the normal path of travel and increases the probability that a resident will fall and injure themselves.

Health and Safety Standard: This is an intermediate health and safety issue. POAs have 30 days to correct this deficiency.

How to Inspect: Visual Observation: Look at the ground along the normal path of travel to identify significant difference in vertical elevation or horizontal separation.

Action: Measure—if a significant difference is identified—the difference in vertical elevation or horizontal separation. Photograph the hazard and the measurement.

Record deficiency if: there is an abrupt change in vertical elevation or horizontal separation on any walking surface along the normal path of travel, consisting of the following criteria:

- a 3/4 inch or greater vertical difference, OR
- a 2-inch horizontal separation perpendicular to the path of travel

**Please Note:** If the walking area has an engineered designed gap or vertical difference; this is not a tripping hazard. i.e. a raised manhole, a plant grate designed in the middle of a sidewalk.