

Slip and Fall Cases We've Handled

Winning a slip and fall case means proving the property owner knew — or should have known — about the hazard and failed to fix it. Below are real examples from the hundreds of slip, trip, and fall cases our firm has handled, and the legal principles that made each one succeed.

Nearly every premises liability case turns on **notice**: showing the hazard existed long enough that the business should have discovered it (constructive notice), that an employee created it (active negligence), or that the business's way of operating makes hazards so predictable that constant monitoring is required (mode of operation).

Detergent Spill at a Warehouse Club Store

CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE

Our client slipped on liquid laundry detergent another patron had accidentally dropped. The spill told its own story: cart tracks ran through it, footprints and slip marks streaked across it, and the detergent had migrated outward in a way that only happens over time. That physical evidence established that the hazard existed long enough for the store to discover and clean it during reasonable inspections.

Why it matters: a spill's spread, tracks, and streaks can prove the store had time to find it — the heart of constructive notice.

Green Mold at an Office Building Entrance

CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE

Our client slipped on green mold growing on the sidewalk at an office building entrance. Mold does not appear overnight — it develops over weeks of moisture and neglect. Its very presence proved the building had ample time to discover the slippery condition and remove it, and failed to do so.

Why it matters: hazards that take time to form — mold, algae, mildew — are built-in proof of notice.

Protruding Floor Outlet at a Shopping Mall

ACTUAL NOTICE · FAILURE TO REPAIR

Our client tripped over an electrical outlet embedded in the mall floor that had come loose and was bulging upward into the walking path. Maintenance workers walked past this defect routinely — yet it was never repaired. A known, long-standing defect in a pedestrian walkway is exactly the kind of hazard a mall is required to correct.

Why it matters: when staff regularly pass a defect, the owner can't claim it didn't know.

Produce Section Puddle Created by an Employee

ACTIVE NEGLIGENCE

A supermarket employee spraying water on vegetables forgot to close the drain plug at the bottom of the display container. Water poured onto the floor, forming a large puddle almost the same color as the tile. Because a store employee created the hazard, we did not need to prove how long it existed — the store was liable for its employee's own negligence.

Why it matters: when the business creates the hazard, notice is automatic.

Soda Spill at a Fast-Food Restaurant Entrance

CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE · HIGH-RISK LOCATION

A large soda spill remained at the restaurant's entrance — the highest-traffic point in the building — for a substantial period. Streaking and discoloration in the dried edges proved it had been there long enough that periodic safety checks should have caught it. A hazard in such a dangerous location demands immediate attention; this one never got any.

Why it matters: the more dangerous the location, the more frequent inspections must be.

Deep Pothole at a Shopping Center on a Rainy Day

CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE · FAILURE TO MAINTAIN

A shopping center left a deep pothole unrepaired where customers cross on foot. On a rainy day, with the pothole disguised by standing water, our client stepped into it and suffered a severe knee injury. Potholes take months to develop — the deterioration itself proved long-standing notice. Falls like these commonly cause tibia fractures and torn knee ligaments.

Why it matters: pavement defects develop slowly, so their very existence establishes notice.

Open Service Bay at an Oil Change Shop

KNOWN HAZARD · DISABLED SAFETY FEATURE

Staff called our elderly client into the service area to pay his bill — across a floor where an open service bay had been left without its protective netting. He fell six feet into the pit, suffering severe injuries. The business knew the bay was an extreme hazard; that is precisely why the netting existed. Choosing not to use it was indefensible.

Why it matters: failing to use an existing safety device is powerful evidence of negligence.

Leaking Juice Machine at a Florida Keys Hotel

MODE OF OPERATION · PERPETUAL HAZARD

A young woman on vacation slipped in the breakfast area near the hotel's self-serve juice bar, where a dispenser with a slow leak had dripped across the floor. During a busy spring break weekend, the hotel staffed no one to monitor the area — despite knowing self-serve stations generate constant drips and spills requiring continuous checks, cleaning, and warning signs.

Why it matters: businesses that choose self-service must staff and monitor for the spills that model predictably creates.

Pressure Washing During Business Hours

CONTRACTOR NEGLIGENCE · FAILURE TO WARN

A pressure washing company worked at a shopping center during the lunch rush, flooding the common walkways and sending water through doorways into operating stores. The hazard was entirely preventable: the work could have been scheduled after hours, and wet areas blocked off with weighted barriers and warnings. Their failure caused a severe injury to our client.

Why it matters: contractors working on a property owe the same duty of care as the owner — and both can be liable.

Fallen Soft Drink Display in a Store Aisle

CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE

A soft drink display had fallen, spilling liquid across the floor. The spill was tracked through by other shoppers and left unaddressed — no cleanup, no cones, no warning. Our client slipped and suffered a severe ankle fracture. The track marks proved plenty of people, including staff, had encountered the spill before she fell.

Why it matters: tracked-through spills prove both the passage of time and the store's missed opportunities to act.

Leaking Freezer in the Frozen Food Aisle

ORGANIZATIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Our client slipped on water that had spread far from a grocery store freezer, streaked with other shoppers' footprints. Discovery revealed the freezer had a documented history of leaks, had been recommended for replacement, and was overdue for scheduled maintenance. This wasn't one missed spill — it was an organizational failure, and it made the store liable.

Why it matters: maintenance records and ignored repair recommendations uncovered in litigation can transform a case.

Raised Sidewalk at a School Event

SUBSTANTIAL TRIPPING HAZARD

At a back-to-school night, our client tripped over a sidewalk slab raised more than an inch above the adjoining slab — a height differential courts recognize as a substantial tripping hazard. She required hospitalization. Sidewalk displacement develops gradually, giving the property owner extended notice and ample opportunity to grind, patch, or replace the walkway.

Why it matters: even an inch of sidewalk displacement can be legally actionable — and it never appears overnight.

Food Court Soda Spill at a Busy Mall

PERPETUAL HAZARD · FOUND NEGLIGENT

A grandmother walking with her grandchild near a mall food court slipped violently on a spilled soft drink that was never cleaned or marked. The soda was streaked by other patrons' footsteps in an area of unusually heavy traffic — a predictable, continuous risk requiring perpetual cleaning crews. The mall was found negligent for its failure.

Why it matters: food courts and similar high-spill zones require continuous monitoring, not occasional checks.

Child Injured by Improper Drainage at a Car Wash

ACTIVE & KNOWN NEGLIGENCE

A young child walking through a car wash parking lot with her parent slipped on a deep crack in the pavement that had filled with soapy water — water never supposed to drain into that area at all. The business knew its drainage sent slippery, soap-laden runoff across a walkway where families pass daily, over pavement it knew was cracked. The child fell and fractured her arm.

Why it matters: when a business's own operations send a hazard into a pedestrian path, the negligence is both active and known — and children are owed the highest degree of care.

Unfilled Landscaping Hole in a Casino Parking Lot

MULTIPLE DEFENDANTS · NO QUALITY CONTROL

A woman leaving a casino at night fell into a three-foot-deep hole left where a landscaping company had removed a tree — and never filled it. The hole sat in an unlit area with no barricade or warning. Her injuries required emergency surgery. Every layer of oversight failed: the landscaper's manager performed no quality-control inspection, and neither the casino nor its security company caught the open hole.

Why it matters: contractors, property owners, and security companies can each share liability — and when none of them inspects, all of them may answer for it.

Missing Floor Tile in a Shopping Center Walkway

ACTUAL NOTICE · DOCUMENTED & IGNORED

Our client tripped over a missing tile in a common-area pathway, suffering a severe injury. The tile had been missing for some time — and the security company had reported the defect. Despite that documented report, no repairs were made and no warning signs were placed over a known hazard in a pedestrian walkway.

Why it matters: a hazard reported in writing and left unrepaired converts “should have known” into “absolutely knew” — and juries respond to that.

Injured in a slip, trip, or fall?

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