

Why Risk It?

RISK REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

The Y in Central Maryland



January/February 2025

Spotlight: Preventing Theft at The Y

This time of year, we generally see an increase in petty theft from our locker rooms and parked cars. With this in mind, we ask you to increase the number of locker room checks that you and your team conduct throughout the day. Your mere presence can be a deterrent to those seeking an opportunity to steal another's belongings.

In addition, pay attention to the activity in your parking lots. Many thieves are opportunists. If they see a purse, wallet, phone, or package on the seat of a car, it's likely that they will break into the car and steal these items. Reminding members to hide these items and monitoring the activity in your parking lot can help mitigate the chance for potential break-ins.

Below, are some helpful tips for a safe and happy holiday season.

1. Monitor your locker rooms and post reminders to secure items in a locker with a durable lock
2. Remind your members to leave valuables at home
3. Ensure ALL members and guests scan in at the front desk
4. Check your parking lot to ensure the lights are in working order and encourage members to park in a well-lit area
5. Remind members that cars should always be locked with any valuables out of sight, or secured in the trunk
6. Adopt the approach of "If you see something, say something"
- encourage members to tell a Y associate if something appears out of place

Any questions, please contact riskmanagement@ymaryland.org.

Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

Many hazards that cause slips, trips, and falls are inevitable. However, injuries and accidents are not. To prevent slips, trips, and falls, all of us need to follow a three-step process:

1. Recognize the hazard: Encourage your associates to be keenly aware of their surroundings - identifying conditions that could lead to a slip, trip, or fall
2. Evaluate the hazard: Review prior incidents with your associates and determine the root cause - consider if additional mats are needed; if signage needed; if handrails and other safety mechanisms are in place/working properly?
3. Control the hazard: Avoid the risk by removing the hazard, such as mopping up a spill, replacing ripped carpets, ensuring proper lighting, and reporting equipment, tiles, floors, or mats that need repair

(information courtesy of Alert Media)

Preparing Your Facility for Winter Weather

Winter weather brings a wide variety of different risks, and preparing for them requires organization-wide coordination. That means keeping all areas of your facility, and all aspects of your programming, in focus as you anticipate winter weather. The following are important areas of focus:

Walkway and Parking Lot Inspections

Slippery sidewalks and parking lots are a common cause of slip, trip and fall accidents during inclement weather. Because ice and snow can melt and refreeze, it's necessary to perform spot checks and to apply safety measures **throughout** the day. Pay particular attention to morning and evening hours, where lower temperatures and poor visibility may exacerbate slipping hazards.

Monitoring Floors

Remind all associates to keep an eye out for things like wet floors which may result in melted snow that has been tracked in. Alert members to hazards through the use of wet floor signs; and make use of mats at entrances to help absorb the water.

Regular De-Icing

Ensure you have salt on hand and use it to de-ice sidewalks, steps, and other hazardous areas.

Remember . . . we are **ALL** responsible for keeping our members safe. Please encourage your associates to implement these best practices during the winter season.

(information courtesy of the Redwoods Group)