# Sidewalk Inspection

Pedestrian falls on sidewalks are often the result of the failure of the property owner or other responsible person to maintain the sidewalk 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 to consider when inspecting existing sidewalks for liability concerns.

## Sidewalk Construction

Are any of the following construction defects present?

- 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 covers and junction boxes)
- Hazardous conditions (e.g., excessive deflection, change in surface texture, or lack of structural integrity) caused by cellar doors, 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?
- 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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