

Safe Floors ● ● ● General Information

V.P.I. & S.U. LIBRARY

APR 21 1978

Accidents in the home that can be attributed directly to the characteristics of a particular floor surface are relatively low in frequency when compared to other more obvious, accident-causing features and fixtures. However, accidents caused by floors, usually a fall, are among the most serious experienced by the victim from an injury standpoint. Because of the severity of these accidents, floor surfaces deserve the full attention of the planner, designer, and builder when the selection of the floor covering is to be finalized. Fortunately for the resident, our technology offers a wide variety of safe coverings for almost any style, decor, or color desired. Certain types of floor coverings are better suited for a particular use than others, but in general,

the ranges of the style, price, texture, and design are wide enough to meet almost any individual requirements.

Unfortunately, a great number of accidents associated with floor coverings are the result of carelessness, inattention, and poor maintenance on the part of the resident. No floor, regardless of surface characteristics, is safe if it is covered with water, grease, debris, or other foreign material that contributes to insecure footing. Care and reasonable maintenance by the resident are a necessity. The most important actions that can be taken by the planner, architect, and builder are the specification, recommendation, or selection of a floor covering that is compatible with the activities intended for the area.

Other topics related to safe floors in this series include the following:

- MI-195 Safe Floors - Living & Sleeping Areas
- MI-196 Safe Floors - Kitchens, Bathrooms, Basements, & Laundry Rooms
- MI-197 Safe Floors - Entrance Foyers & Mud Rooms
- MI-198 Safe Floors - Porches, Terraces, & Laundry Platforms
- MI-199 Safe Floors - Garages & Carports
- MI-200 Safety Checklist for Floors

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

Extension Division • Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University • MI-194 • March 1978
Prepared by Helen L. Wells, Housing Specialist

Originally prepared for the Office of Research and Technology, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
"A Design Guide for Home Safety" HUD-RT-17 January 1972

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. W. R. Van Dresser, Dean, Extension Division, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service by law and purpose is dedicated to serve all people on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis.
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer