

Safe Floors • • • Entrance Foyers & Mudrooms

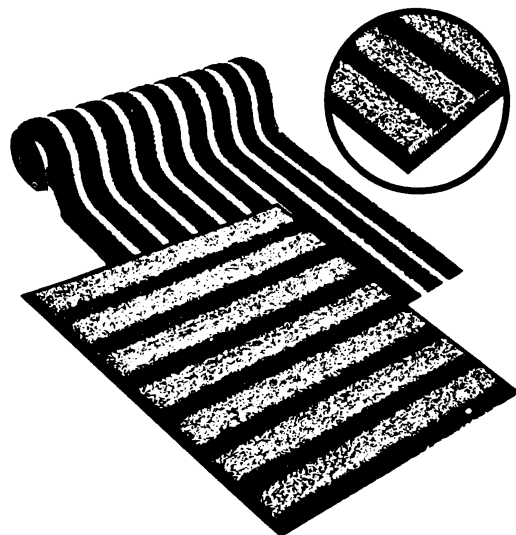
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Other home areas frequently subjected to water on floor surfaces are entrance foyers, mud rooms, and all entrances from the exterior. During inclement weather, or when auto washing, lawn watering and other "wet" operations are performed, water is brought in on the shoes of the occupants, resulting in conditions similar to those described for kitchen and bathroom floors. However, the problem can be solved more easily, since the floor area concerned is generally small, the extreme sanitation problem is not present, and the cost of corrective measures is relatively low.

At present, a limited number of products specifically designed for use in these areas is available. These products include, in addition to the various slip-resistant tiles, such items as carpet mats with rubber backing, recessed frame mats, indoor/outdoor carpeting, and molded-rubber tiles with slip-resistant designs. However, except for the slip-resistant tiles and indoor/outdoor carpet, these products are usually designed for commercial, institutional, and industrial applications, and may be considered unattractive for residential use. These products would be effective in reducing potential hazards. The use of imagination and good taste in selection of these products

on the part of the architect or decorator could provide unoffensive applications from the aesthetic standpoint.

Where carpet is installed in entrance areas, it should be of the kind designed specifically for indoor/outdoor applications to minimize the safety hazard created when persons with wet shoes enter the house. Another means of reducing the hazards associated with wet floors in entrance foyers and mud rooms would be the use of abrasive coatings. Such coatings lack the permanence of the materials described earlier; however, they are effective in reducing hazards associated with slippery floors. The same broad alternative measures recommended for kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms are applicable to foyers, mud rooms, and other exterior entrances.



Examples of special slip-resistant entrance mats.



Entrance foyers and other entrance floor surfaces subject to occasional wetting present a hazard which contributes to accidental falls.

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

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