

The image features a dark blue background with a white border. At the top center, there are three white dots. Below them, the word "STONHARD" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath "STONHARD", the text "EST. 1922" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, flanked by two horizontal lines. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a wet, textured surface, likely a floor, with water droplets visible. The photograph is framed by a dark blue border with rounded corners.

STONHARD

EST. 1922

BEYOND THE SURFACE: A Guide to Slip Resistance in Flooring



BEYOND THE SURFACE:

A Guide to Slip Resistance in Flooring

Introduction

In any workspace, flooring is your first line of defence against one of the most common workplace hazards: slips and falls. For facility and safety managers, choosing the right flooring is more than just an aesthetic decision—it's a strategic move that impacts employee safety, operational efficiency, and your bottom line. Investing in slip-resistant flooring isn't just an expense—it's a critical step toward creating a safer, more reliable environment.

Textured resinous flooring systems provide an effective solution engineered for both performance and safety. But how do you determine the right level of texture?

This guide explores the importance of slip resistance, how it's achieved, and how to choose the perfect finish for every area in your facility.

Why is this Important?

A slip-and-fall incident can lead to serious injuries, reduced productivity, and costly liability issues. Whether it's a high-traffic retail store, an industrial facility, or a restaurant—the risk is ever-present.

Preventing slips depends on a floor's coefficient of friction (COF), which measures surface grip. Higher COF means better traction and reduced accident risk, especially in areas with moisture, spills, or grease. Resinous flooring can be customized to specific COF levels, tailoring textures to suit each space. Designing the right texture from the start ensures a safer environment for everyone.



Three Levels of Texture

Not every space requires the same level of slip resistance. The needs of an office hallway differ greatly from those of a commercial kitchen or warehouse.

Understanding these options helps you select a floor that ensures safety while remaining practical to maintain.

1. ● Fine Texture: Subtle Safety for Everyday Use

This level of slip resistance provides a smooth, barely-there texture that enhances safety without altering the floor's appearance.

- How It's Achieved: Fine polymer-based non-slip additives are mixed into the floor's topcoat, creating an invisible but effective grip.
- Best For: Areas where aesthetics and ease of cleaning are key, but a basic level of safety is still necessary.
 - Office hallways and entryways
 - Retail spaces
 - Waiting rooms
 - Medical offices and clinics





2. ● Medium Texture: The Versatile Option

For areas with increased exposure to spills or moisture, a medium texture offers a balance of safety and cleanability.

- How It's Achieved: Fine aggregates like aluminum oxide are broadcast over a wet coating layer, then sealed with a topcoat to create a durable, textured surface.
- Best For: Spaces with regular foot traffic and a higher likelihood of spills.
 - Commercial kitchens and food prep areas
 - Restrooms and locker rooms
 - Cafeterias and break rooms
 - Warehouse floors



3. Aggressive Texture: Maximum Safety for Demanding Areas

High-risk environments require the most slip-resistant surfaces. Aggressive textures deliver the maximum grip for safety, even under challenging conditions.

- How It's Achieved: Large aggregates, such as quartz sand, are broadcast to rejection into the floor, then sealed with multiple topcoats for a robust, high-traction surface.
- Best For: Areas where slips are a significant concern and safety is the top priority.
 - Loading docks and ramps
 - Maintenance and mechanical rooms
 - Industrial processing areas
 - Garbage and recycling zones

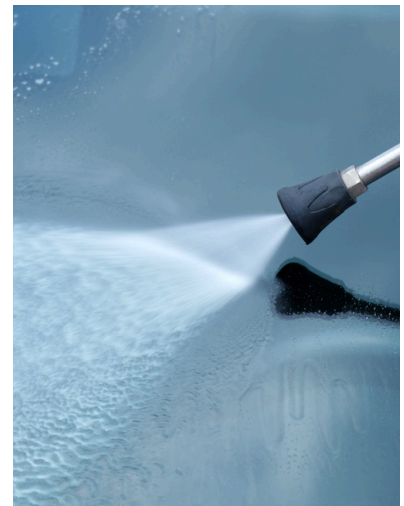


Balancing Safety and Maintenance

Selecting a slip-resistant floor involves balancing safety with ease of maintenance. The more aggressive the texture, the greater the cleaning effort required.

- **Fine Textures:** These smooth surfaces are easy to clean using standard tools like auto-scrubbers or mops.
- **Medium Textures:** These may require a deck brush to agitate cleaning solutions effectively, as string mops can snag.
- **Aggressive Textures:** These require more intensive cleaning methods, such as mechanical scrubbers with stiff brushes or pressure washers, to remove embedded dirt and maintain effectiveness.

It's important to choose a texture that not only meets safety requirements but also matches your maintenance capabilities. Over-specifying an aggressive texture in low-risk areas can lead to unnecessary cleaning challenges and reduced performance over time.



Conclusion

Your Foundation to a Safer Future

We hope you found this guide helpful and feel more informed and confident to make the right choice for your facility. Flooring isn't just a surface—it's a critical safety feature. By choosing the right slip-resistant finish for each area of your facility, you go beyond compliance to create a safer, more efficient environment for your employees and customers.

If you have any questions or are ready to enhance the safety of your space, contact us today. With experienced representatives across Canada, help is always close by—book a consultation or give us a call.

