

Floor Holes

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Floor holes can be found inside of buildings, in shops or warehouses, on working platforms, on roofs and in outdoor working environments. OSHA defines a floor hole as ***a gap or open space in a floor, roof, horizontal walking-working surface, or similar surface that is at least 2 inches (5 cm) in its least dimension.***

OSHA Standard 1910.28(b)(3)(ii) states *each employee is protected from tripping into or stepping into or through any hole that is less than 4 feet (1.2 m) above a lower level by covers or guardrail systems.*

Never risk your safety or that of a fellow worker by ignoring potential dangers of floor holes.

Floor holes must be guarded or protected by guardrails, covers, and other conventional fall protection methods. Remember these important points when it comes to floor hole protection.

- Inspect walking/working areas and rooftops for potentially unguarded and unprotected floor holes, including skylights.
- Ensure floor drains are covered or protected to avoid trip and fall hazards.
- Ensure hatchways are covered with a hinged door or a guardrail system is in place.
- Ensure ladderways or chute floors are protected with guardrails and toeboards.
- Wear the appropriate fall protection when working at heights of 4 feet or more above ground.
- Missing steps that create a hole in a stairway should be protected like any other floor hole.
- Even shallow floor holes need to have protection.

OSHA Standard 1910.28(b)(3)(i) states *Each employee is protected from falling through any hole (including skylights) that is 4 feet (1.2 m) or more above a lower level by one or more of the following: Covers; guardrail systems; travel restraint systems; or personal fall arrest systems.*

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