

# SIDEWALK SAFETY TRIP HAZARD REPAIR

Federal law requires the removal of all trip hazards from all pedestrian walkways. Because the ADA demands compliance, trip hazards present a legal liability. By eliminating trip hazards, property owners reduce their legal liability.

**Businesses can qualify for a tax credit of up to \$5,000 and an additional tax deduction of up to \$15,000 on work performed for barrier removal and ADA improvements for a total combined savings of up to \$20,000.**



## ADA GUIDELINES:

The ADA Draft Guidelines for the Public Right of Way provide the following guidance for walkways. The guidance states that surfaces of public sidewalks be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and shall lie generally in a continuous plane with a minimum of surface warping.

**Faults/Changes in Level:** Surface discontinuities shall not exceed 0.5 inches (13 millimeters) maximum. Vertical discontinuities between 0.25 inches (6.4 millimeters) and 0.5 inches (13 millimeters) maximum shall be beveled at 1:2 minimum. The bevel shall be applied across the entire level change.

Maintenance activities include, but are not limited to: thin surface overlays (nonstructural), joint repair, pavement patching (filling potholes), shoulder repair, signing, striping, minor signal upgrades and repairs to drainage systems. Based on that, surfacing treatments for sidewalks such as filling holes and cracks, wedging, grinding, and horizontal cutting are considered maintenance.



## REDUCE RISK

### HOW TO REMOVE SIDEWALK TRIP HAZARDS:

Some of these methods include concrete grinders, total sidewalk replacement, and scarifiers. Complete sidewalk replacement is by far the most expensive and time-consuming of the three methods.

#### Suggested Solutions:

##### Complete Sidewalk Replacement



This is a more labor intensive approach. It involves removing the entire pavement and starting new. The advantage is that it addresses underneath conditions and improves the physical appearance of the sidewalk.

##### Concrete Grinders



Grinders use rotating cutting discs to remove the raised concrete sections. They are best suited for removing trip hazards at a depth of just about 1/8-inches. They do offer a smoother finish than a scarifier.

However, they are unable to reach the far corners of a concrete sidewalk requiring use of a second system.

##### Concrete Scarifiers



Scarifiers use a rotating drum with carbide cutter tools that flair against the concrete, leveling the surface.

Use a scarifier to level the concrete sidewalk faster. They're generally more aggressive, hence leave rougher finishes when compared to the grinders.

## BENEFITS OF ADA COMPLIANT WORK:

- Injury prevention
- Protection from shakedown lawsuits
- Tax credits and deductions

### SUGGESTED METHOD: CONCRETE SCARIFIER



Photo credit: Sidewalk Safety Inc.

**Concrete scarifiers offer the best solution if you are looking for an efficient, quick, and cost-effective way to fix your sidewalks.**

**Use a scarifier to sand down the raised side of two joining sections of concrete. Within a matter of minutes, the raised side can be ground down, permanently eliminating the potential trip and fall hazard.**

**The aggressive nature of a scarifier makes them the ideal option for grooving sidewalks ensuring that they are slip-resistant and eliminate trip hazards.**