

DISABILITY ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS: GREENHOUSE ACTIVITY

Many stores and businesses contain trip and slip hazards. Regardless of a person's disability status, employees and the general public should have safe access to different areas of the property.

Two images of greenhouse settings are used as examples here. Imagine you use a cane, wheelchair, or scooter. What would your thoughts be about making your way through these environments? Are they inviting? Would you feel safe moving through these environments? Mention specific details for each one.

Compare your observations to the ones on the next page. As you learn what to look for, you are likely to notice more examples in your own community.



PICTURE A



PICTURE B



PICTURE A

- Plants are in easy reach on tables and aisles are clear for walking.
- The water hose is under the table when not being used.
- Instead of hoses, some greenhouses install overhead water lines to automatically drip into the plants. With overhead watering systems, hoses are not carried by the employees, which eliminates the trip hazard and the under-the-table storage hazard. Overhead water hoses should be regularly checked to make sure water doesn't overflow onto the floor, which can make a water slip hazard.
- Hanging baskets could be difficult to access. The table prevents a person from reaching the baskets. Employees can use long handled hooks to bring the baskets down for customers.
- The photo shows one large aisle that is clear of obstacles. Customers and employees have access to the front of each table. Customers may have trouble reaching across tables for plants along the back row. It's best to have large aisles between tables to reach all of the plants.
- Smooth floor surfaces allow for easy walking and smooth rolling of wheelchairs and scooters.
- The area has good natural lighting. If the building is used at night or in dark conditions, additional lighting can increase safety.



PICTURE B

- Plants are in easy reach on the ground. Plants are easily accessible from all sides.
- Row spacing is not consistent. This makes it difficult for wheelchair and scooter turn-arounds. Random spacing of the plant zones restrict easy flow from one area to another. It also creates obstacles for persons who are visually impaired.
- Trip hazards are present with hoses running throughout the area. The floor surface is not smooth and contains dirt, standing water, and other plastic materials, which make it difficult for walking and rolling wheelchairs and scooters.
- There is a combination of hand wand hoses and irrigation water hoses used in this area. Instead of using hoses, some greenhouses install overhead water lines to automatically drip into the pots. With overhead watering systems, hoses are not carried by the employees, which eliminates the trip hazard. Irrigation hoses and overhead water hoses should be regularly checked to make sure water doesn't overflow onto the floor, which can make a water slip hazard.

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