



This week's focus is to eliminate, and/or minimise, the risk of slips, trips and falls involving uneven ground surfaces such as loose pavers, raised concrete, tree roots or sunken/raised ground.

According to the CSIRO, Adelaide has one of the world's worst combinations of clay soils and climate that results in a very large amount of damage to buildings and infrastructure. The damage resulting from reactive soils in Adelaide far exceeds that from earthquake, landslides or any other geo-hazard.

As a result of reactive soil, pavers, concrete and bitumen either sink or heave upwards creating serious risks of slips, trips and falls. So, how do we address these problems?



Problem: Sunken concrete path

Possible solutions;

- Lift and re-lay the sunken/raised concrete
- Hire a concrete grinder and reduce the trip hazard (*grind nosing*)
- Replace concrete with pavers for better maintenance options
- Re-design areas prone to movement (*replace with nature play/garden*)



Problem: Raised bitumen

Possible solutions;

- Grind/cut out raised section and re-lay bitumen
- Re-design areas prone to movement (*replace with nature play/garden*)



Problem: Poor drainage/reactive Clay Soil

Possible solutions;

- Lift and re-lay the raised/sunken pavers
- Remove tree roots and re-lay the pavers
- Re-design areas prone to movement (*replace with nature play/garden*)

As with all of the suggested controls above, remember to remain vigilant and ensure workplace inspections are performed regularly & hazards are reported and rectified.