

# Escalator Safety

Statistically speaking, an escalator is a very safe ride. This is due, in a large part, to the safety factors built into the equipment used and regular inspection and maintenance by escalator safety technicians. However, even the best safety equipment cannot prevent injuries caused by improper use of escalators.

The number one type of incident on escalators involved falls caused by a loss of balance, presence of foreign objects on the escalator (i.e., luggage, strollers or wheelchairs), horseplay and rider inattention.

While the odds of injury related to an escalator ride are low, risks may be reduced by following a few simple rules.

## Safety Tips

- Pay close attention to small children and hold them firmly with one hand.
- Step on carefully and promptly.
- Make sure all loose clothing is kept clear of steps and sides. Those long winter scarves can get caught and pulled into the moving mechanism.
- Take care of loose shoelaces and never ride in bare feet.
- During the ride, hold the handrail firmly and do not rest purses or parcels on it.
- Stand – never sit- facing forward, toward the middle of the step.
- Do not lean on or touch below the handrail.
- When it is time to get off, step carefully and immediately move clear of the escalator exit area to make way for the passengers behind you.
- If you use a cane, walker, or other kind of wheeled vehicle – including strollers and shopping carts- do not ride an escalator. Take the elevator instead.

Additional information available from Technical Standards and Safety Authority ([www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org))