

Furniture Inspection – Dining Tables

Ensuring your customer's safety is the one of the most important things that you must do as an owner. Customer safety can take many forms, ranging from clear and clean parking lots, dry floors, proper traffic patterns, food quality, and a host of other items.

One area where there has been a consistent show of customer injuries and claims is with furniture related items. In some cases, new furniture may not be assembled correctly, and in others, the furniture can degrade over time. Remember, although the furniture is designed to be durable, thousands of customers will sit in chairs, and eat at tables over time. It is important to inspect chairs, tables, and other furniture items for proper condition.

Furniture maintenance claims have been trending upward. Furniture over time can develop corrosion, cracks, loose screws/bolts, and become unstable. The attached picture is an example of corrosion on the table leg base which is attached to the floor. If the base is made of aluminum, then the corrosion may only appear as a bubbling, raised surface, or possibly with white flecks. Over time, the base can weaken, and if the table is a table/chair combination, then the base can snap suddenly, causing injury to one or more customers. To prevent this from occurring, the base of all tables should be inspected – especially on table/chair combinations.



When inspecting tables, look for the following:

- Cracks near the base
- Bubbling in the metal, white flecks, discoloration
- Cracked or raised tile (the anchor may be failing)
- The grout or seal around the base – If the grout or seal around the base has failed, then water may be collecting and causing corrosion below the tile line, where it is difficult to see.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your equipment, as it ages, is in good working condition. The safety of your customers depends on it, as does the health of your business!