

ESCALATOR SAFETY GUIDE



move WITH THE
grooves

Practice Safe-Riding

Ride the Rocket.



THE BETTER WAY



ESCALATOR MYTHS AND TRUTHS

Myth: Riders do not have to be cautious on escalators.

Truth: Escalators are six-ton moving machines. Pay the same attention to an escalator as you would to a moving bus. Riders should keep away from both sides and hold handrails. Loose clothes, untied or long shoelaces, high heels, long hair, long jewellery, etc., can get caught in an escalator.

Myth: The steps will flatten out and all the people will slide down.

Truth: This is impossible. Each step is a full triangular structure consisting of tread and riser supported on a track and cannot flatten out.

Myth: Escalators move too fast.

Truth: Escalators move at only two times normal walking speeds. The misconception is probably due to the visual perception.

Myth: Escalators will stop and restart themselves.

Truth: Escalators only stop if the STOP button is pushed, the safety switch is tripped or an obstruction is encountered. Escalators can only be restarted by a trained professional.

Myth: If an escalator is not in motion, it is just a set of stairs.

Truth: Not at all! Escalator steps are not the correct height for normal walking and should not be used in that manner. The risk of tripping and falling is greatly increased.

USED BY PERMISSION FROM EESF

ESCALATOR FACTS

- the first escalator was designed in 1892
- the first escalators were made of wood
- in North America, 245 million people use escalators daily
- the TTC maintains the most escalators in Canada
- the longest escalator is at York Mills Station (148 steps)
- the shortest escalator is at Yonge & Bloor (42 steps)

BE COURTEOUS



Pay close attention to small children and hold their hands as well as the hand railings.



Always stand facing forward and never go against traffic.



Move quickly away from exit areas – do not stop to talk or look around.



Please take elevator, if available when using strollers, walkers or wheeled vehicles

PRACTICE SAFE-RIDING

- Step on and off with extreme care, no jostling or pushing on the escalator.
- Always stand facing forward.
- Keep feet away from the sides of the escalator. Do not lean against the side.
- Keep loose clothing clear of escalator steps and sides.
- Never sit or kneel on the escalator steps.
- No running up or down the escalator.
- Hold onto the handrails.
- Step off promptly. No hesitation. Move quickly away from the exit areas.
- In an emergency, push the STOP button at the top or bottom landing of the escalator. (Check where it is next time you ride).
- Be courteous, have a safe ride.

If you find a problem with TTC escalator, elevator or stairs, please inform the TTC Subway Collector immediately.

BE SAFE



Know where the emergency stop buttons are located.



Do not rest your handbag, briefcase, knapsack or parcels on the handrail.



Do not lean against the side and keep loose clothing clear of steps and sides. Watch out for loose shoelaces.



Never sit or kneel on the step or ride the handrail.

TTC AND TSSA WANT YOU TO RIDE ESCALATORS SAFELY

TTC's over 290 escalators have an outstanding safety record. However, even the best safety equipment cannot prevent injuries if used improperly.

The majority of escalator incidents in Ontario that were reported to the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) were attributed to user behaviour.

Many escalator incidents are due to:

- falls, resulting from the rider losing balance;
- entrapment in the mechanics of escalators caused by clothing, footwear or suitcases;
and
- use of mobility devices or strollers.

The TSSA regulates the safety of escalators in Ontario.

Statistically escalators are safer than stairs, but you do need to follow the safety tips. The TTC and TSSA want you to remember the important points contained in this brochure.



For more information about escalator safety, please refer to the following websites:

TSSA

www.safetyinfo.ca

www.tssa.org

TTC

www.ttc.ca

Escalator, Elevator Safety Foundation

www.eesf.org

www.safetrider.org

www.asaferide.org