

Curriculum Vitae

John C. Sotter

President

Consultant and Expert Witness — Slip, Trip and Fall

SOTTER ENGINEERING CORPORATION

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President John Sotter graduated from the University of California at San Diego in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning. His studies there included work in floor friction and in chemistry.

He has 17 years of experience in responsible safety work for the City of San Clemente, California.

He has trained in floor slip resistance testing in the U.S. and the U.K. (including pendulum and Tortus manufacturing facilities) and has done most of Sotter Engineering's floor slip resistance testing work for the past twenty-five years, doing testing for well over 1,000 individual clients, both in our laboratory and in the field from Hawaii to New Hampshire, British Columbia to Mexico, New York to Florida, on the high seas, and everywhere in between. He has tested floors and road surfaces for some of the world's largest international corporations including Apple, Amazon, Ford Motorcars, Disney, General Motors, LAX and SEA airports, The Ritz Carlton, Montage Resorts, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the United States Navy and Space Force, Carnival Cruise Lines, Virgin Voyages, Great Wolf Lodges, Porsche, Universal Studios, Unilever, Masco, and QuikTrip convenience stores, to name a few.

John's twenty-five years of extensive experience with floor slip resistance testing using the British Pendulum Tester, Tortus digital tribometer, SlipAlert, BOT-3000E, and ASTM C1028 static friction test device is unmatched both in the United States and in the Americas. He has worked in floor friction testing and floor friction treatment in the USA, Canada, Mexico, and on the high seas. He helped develop an anti-slip floor coating that has now been sold in dozens of countries.

John has testified in court once, has been deposed five times, and took part in two mediations. He has worked with around a hundred lawyers on slip and fall lawsuits, almost all of which were settled before deposition or trial was required. This is likely because John uses internationally accepted and peer-reviewed science with published test methods in over 50 nations, and he is very knowledgeable about the withdrawn, expired and unreliable test methods used by most American slip and fall "experts", also known as expert "liars for hire".

John does testing for architects, building owners and flooring manufacturers while almost all other "experts" in this field wait outside courtrooms in fancy suits waiting to fool juries with their debunked and/or mysterious test methods that have been ignored by the

international slip resistance testing community, don't have a published, peer-reviewed test method in any nation, and have a well-documented lack of precision.

He works behind the scenes with lawyers to get testimony from unscrupulous experts with their unreliable instruments and data thrown out of court. Settling a lawsuit when one expert is presenting internationally-accepted testing data from an instrument that has a published, peer-reviewed test method in over 50 nations, and the other "expert liar for hire" is using an old, withdrawn American standard with poor precision (or an instrument that doesn't have a published standard in any nation) can be quick and easy.

John's background includes many miles barefoot on wet surfaces: years of competitive swimming, international sailing, water polo (a high school All-American), and surf lifeguarding. John has traveled extensively in 25 nations. He recently made substantial revisions and updates to the American slip and skid resistance test method – ASTM E303-22 – which was published by the ASTM in June of 2022.

John has been instrumental in educating architects, building owners, flooring manufacturers, other experts in this field of science, and attorneys on the fake slip resistance test methods that have been published and then eventually withdrawn (or allowed to quietly expire) by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the National Floor Safety Institute (NFSI), and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) over the years.

John has published websites, blog posts and videos helping people understand that there is internationally-accepted and well-researched science in the field of testing of floors for slip resistance to help stop preventable slip injuries, and there are American "non-profit organizations" that publish garbage tests to help unscrupulous flooring and coatings companies make a quick buck, and help win multi-million-dollar lawsuits using unproven tests used nowhere outside of American courtrooms. The list of garbage tests used to fool unsuspecting American tile consumers and juries over the decades, such as ASTM D2047 (which measures how slippery a clean and dry floor is to someone standing still on it), grows longer and longer each year.

He is also a member of the United Kingdom's Slip Resistance Group (UKSRG), who conducts research into slips and falls, and helps create slip resistance test standards for European nations.

John's participation in several slip resistance proficiency tests, which included slip resistance testing labs in several nations testing identical surfaces, has proven that John is one of the most precise slip resistance testers in the world today, if not THE most precise.

John calibrates pendulum testers after having been trained to do so in the United Kingdom by a major pendulum manufacturer there. He has now calibrated pendulums for private corporations and governmental agencies in several countries.

PUBLICATION: ["Specifying Anti-Slip Floor Coatings", March 2020](#), pg. 24

["The New Slip Resistance Requirements in IBC," July 2016](#), pg. 72.

Numerous educational blog posts published at
<https://safetydirectamerica.com/author/johnsotter/>

Numerous educational videos published at
<https://www.youtube.com/user/safetydirectamerica/videos>