

Curriculum Vitae

John C. Sotter

President

Consultant and Expert Witness — Slip, Trip and Fall

SOTTER ENGINEERING CORPORATION

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President John C. 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 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 both the United States and the United Kingdom, including training at pendulum and Tortus manufacturing facilities. He has performed most of Sotter Engineering's floor slip resistance testing work for the past twenty-five years, conducting testing for well over 1,000 individual clients in both laboratory and field environments 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 organizations, including Apple, Amazon, Ford Motor Company, Disney, General Motors, LAX and SEA Airports, The Ritz-Carlton, Montage Resorts, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the United States Navy and United States Space Force, Carnival Cruise Lines, Virgin Voyages, Great Wolf Lodge, Porsche, Universal Studios, Unilever, Masco, and QuikTrip convenience stores, among many others.

John's nearly forty years of experience with floor slip resistance testing using the British Pendulum Tester, Tortus Digital Tribometer, SlipAlert, BOT-3000E, and ASTM C1028 static coefficient of friction test device is virtually unmatched in the United States and the Americas. He has worked in floor friction testing and floor friction treatment throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and on the high seas. He also helped develop an anti-slip floor coating that has since been sold in dozens of countries.

John has testified in court once, has been deposed six times, and has participated in two mediations. He has worked with approximately one hundred attorneys on slip-and-fall matters, most of which were resolved before deposition or trial. This is likely because John relies on internationally accepted, peer-reviewed science and test methods that have been published and adopted in more than fifty nations. He is also highly knowledgeable regarding withdrawn, expired, and scientifically questionable test methods that continue to be used by many professional litigation experts whose primary expertise is often courtroom testimony rather than slip resistance science.

John performs testing for architects, building owners, flooring manufacturers, governmental agencies, and property owners, while many experts in this field work almost exclusively in litigation. His work is based on published, peer-reviewed test methods that have achieved broad international acceptance. In contrast, many commonly used American slip-resistance test methods have been withdrawn, allowed to expire, or have demonstrated significant limitations in precision and repeatability.

He frequently works behind the scenes with attorneys to evaluate opposing expert testimony and determine whether the methods, instruments, and conclusions presented are scientifically reliable. When one expert relies on internationally recognized testing methods and another relies on withdrawn standards, poorly validated instruments, or methods lacking broad scientific acceptance, disputes can often be resolved efficiently without the need for trial.

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

John has been instrumental in educating architects, building owners, flooring manufacturers, attorneys, and other professionals regarding slip resistance science and the limitations of numerous test methods that have been withdrawn or allowed to expire by organizations such as ASTM, ANSI, and other industry groups over the years.

John has published websites, articles, and educational videos explaining the distinction between internationally accepted slip-resistance science and certain testing methods that have been promoted within the United States despite limited scientific validation or international acceptance. He has been particularly active in educating architects, building owners, attorneys, and consumers about test methods that have been withdrawn, allowed to expire, or criticized for poor correlation with real-world pedestrian safety. Examples include ASTM D2047, which measures the coefficient of friction of a clean, dry surface under highly controlled laboratory conditions and does not evaluate the slip resistance of a wet walking surface. John advocates for the use of scientifically validated test methods that better reflect actual pedestrian conditions and safety risks.

He is also a member of the United Kingdom's Slip Resistance Group ([UKSRG](#)), which conducts research into slips and falls and helps develop slip resistance standards throughout Europe. He is also one of the three founders of the American Floor Safety Alliance ([AFSA](#)), which publishes floor slip resistance test methods based on the European Union, United Kingdom, and Australian pendulum testing methodologies.

John's participation in several international slip resistance proficiency testing programs, which included laboratories from multiple nations testing identical surfaces, has demonstrated that he is among the [most precise](#) slip resistance testers in the world today.

John calibrates pendulum testers after receiving training in the United Kingdom from a major pendulum manufacturer. He has since calibrated pendulum testers for private corporations and governmental agencies in several countries.

PUBLICATIONS:

[The Expert Witness Problem Hiding in America's Slip-and-Fall Cases](#), The National Law Review, August 2026

[The Floor Beneath Your Feet Has Been Compromised, and Paid Expertise Holds the Blame](#), International Business Times, May 2026

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

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

PUBLICATIONS ABOUT JOHN C SOTTER:

[John Sotter Determines The Real Cost Of A Wet Floor: Why Prevention Beats The Price of a Lawsuit](#), Benzinga, July 15, 2026

[John Sotter's Relentless Pursuit for a Safer America](#), USA Today, June 25, 202

LA Weekly: [America's Aging Population Is Sitting on a Slip-and-Fall Time Bomb](#), Alerts Floor Safety Expert John Sotter, June 2026

International Business Times: [John Sotter Highlights America's Floor Problem, Striving to Redefine the Country's Floor Safety Standards](#), May 2026

CEO Monthly: [Engineering Safer Surfaces: How Safety Direct America is Redefining Slip Prevention](#)

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

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

SELECT CLIENTS AND CONSULTING PROJECTS

Apple (Cupertino and New York City), Amazon, hundreds of architectural firms, Disney, Universal Studios, Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Virgin Voyages, the United States Navy, the United States Space Force, Starbucks Corporation, Unilever, Masco Research & Development, Westfield Malls, the City of Los Angeles (which has listed Safety Direct America as its only certified floor slip resistance testing laboratory), the City of Carlsbad, the City of San Francisco, the City of Oakland, the City of Encinitas, the City of Costa Mesa, the City of Portland, LAX Airport, Seattle Airport, the City of Sugar Land, Texas, the City of Austin, Texas, the Downtown San Diego Jail, pool surface coating projects at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas, The Ritz-Carlton Hotels, Courtyard by Marriott, Crowne Plaza Hotels, Tropicana Las Vegas, Dunn-Edwards Paints, Ecolab, Emser Tile, Everest Insurance, ExxonMobil, Floor Signage, GAF Roads, GlassPro, Heritage Tile, Jockimo Glass, Key Resin, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco,

La Quinta Inn, Life Floor, M2E Consulting Engineers, Malibu Boats, Matu Restaurant Beverly Hills, McCain Foods, Montage Beverly Hills, Montage Laguna Beach, New Pig, Paramount Pictures, Paramount Farms, Paramount Metals, Pebble Stone, Plank and Tile, Floor & Decor, Polycor, Polyfloor, The Porsche Experience Center Los Angeles, QuikTrip Convenience Stores, RAND Corporation, Reata Glen Assisted Living, Renegade Flooring, several Veterans Administration hospitals, Rio Flooring Systems, Rust-Oleum Industrial Brands, Safety Flooring Solutions, San Diego Unified School District, San Jacinto Unified School District, Scientific Testing, ServPro, SlipNot, Slip Tech, Slip RX, Space Links, Staging Concepts, Stone Group International, Stone Products Unlimited, StoneHard, Safe Environments, TCG Glass, The San Francisco Parks Alliance, The Tile Shop Puerto Rico, Unicorn Tile, Van Cleef & Arpels Beverly Hills, Chanel Beverly Hills, Cartier Beverly Hills and Houston, W.A. Klinger, several YMCA facilities, Extreme Polishing Systems, manufacturing facilities in Mexico for Ford Motor Company and General Motors, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, The Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort, and more than one thousand additional clients throughout North America and beyond.