# **Surface Friction**

**Friction**  $(F_f)$  - Friction opposes motion. If you are moving left, friction tries to stop you by pulling right and vice versa. We will be studying only the two types of surface friction.

**Increasing Surface Friction** 

If you wanted to increase the friction on an object you could either put the object on a rougher surface or push down on the object, grinding it into the surface.

 $\mu$  (pronouced "me-oo") is the coefficient of friction. Rougher surfaces have higher  $\mu$ 's.

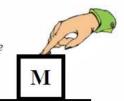


Ice has a very low coefficient of static friction of 0.1, so you slip easily.



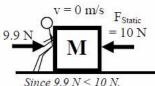
Rubber on concrete has a high coefficient of friction of 1.0, so tires grip well. The greater F<sub>N</sub> is, the more the object is being ground into the surface, causing more friction.

By pushing down you increase  $F_N$  and increase pressure of the object against the surface.

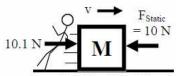


# Static Friction (Fs)

Static friction is gripping friction. F<sub>s</sub> tries to keep an object sticking to a surface. You must apply a force just greater than F<sub>s</sub> to start the object sliding.



Since 9.9 N < 10 N, M won't slide.

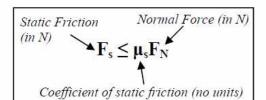


Since 10.1 N > 10 N, M breaks free and starts to slide.

### Use F<sub>s</sub> to decide if the object slides.

If  $F > F_s$  it starts to slide. If  $F < F_s$  it doesn't slide.

Remember: F<sub>s</sub> never causes an object to start sliding on its own.

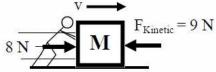


#### CAUTION!

An object can't be slipping and gripping at the same time. Never add F<sub>S</sub> and F<sub>K</sub>.

# Kinetic Friction (F<sub>K</sub>)

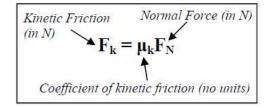
Kinetic friction is slipping friction. F<sub>K</sub> tries to stop an object from slipping, to make it stop. Kinetic friction is usually less than static friction.



8 N < 9 N, so M will slow down and eventually stop.

# Use $F_k$ to calculate acceleration, since an object must be moving to be accelerating.

If  $F > F_k$  it keeps sliding and accelerates. If  $F < F_k$  it will slow down and stop. If  $F = F_k$  it will stay moving at constant speed.



Example: Calculate static and kinetic friction for a 4 kg mass sitting on a table where  $\mu_s = 0.45$  and  $\mu_k = 0.25$ .

$$\mu_s = 0.45$$
 $\mu_k = 0.25$ 
4 kg

#### Solution:

# Step 1) Calculate Normal Force (see "Normal Force" notes)

Since  $a_y = 0$  m/s<sup>2</sup> and there are no other vertical forces, the normal force equals the weight of the object.

$$F_N = F_W = 4(10) = 40 \text{ N}$$

## Step 2) Calculate Static and Kinetic Friction

$$\begin{aligned} F_s &= \mu_s F_N & F_k &= \mu_k F_N \\ F_s &= 0.45(40) & F_k &= 0.25(40) \\ F_s &= 18 \text{ N} & F_k &= 10 \text{ N} \\ \text{It takes } 18 \text{ N} & \text{It takes } 10 \text{ N} \\ \text{to start } M \text{ sliding.} & \text{to keep } M \text{ sliding.} \end{aligned}$$

$$F_{applied} = 20 \text{ N}$$

$$4 \text{ kg}$$

$$F_k = 10 \text{ N}$$

$$\Sigma F = ma$$
  $-10 = 4a$  Use  $F_k$  because it is slipping when it accelerates.

