



Playground Inspection/ Maintenance and Repair Guidelines

D70041 Rev. A

The majority of playground injuries are the result of falls from the equipment to the surface below.

1. Never use concrete, asphalt, grass or compacted earth beneath and/or surrounding playground equipment. Always use a resilient, energy-absorbing material. The more resilient it is, the less likely an injury to the user who falls from the equipment.
2. The minimum dimensions of the use zone around each play apparatus (except swings and slide exits) is six (6) feet in each direction.
3. Swings' use zones must extend at least two (2) times the pivot height to both the front and rear of the top rail. The use zone must extend at least six (6) feet out at each end from the swing frame legs.
4. For the area in front of the slide exit measuring from the point where the slide slope is reduced to five (5) degrees, the use zone must extend a total of four (4) feet plus the height of the platform.

The buyer / owner is responsible for maintenance of the equipment they have purchased.

1. A good preventive maintenance schedule can reduce accidents on playgrounds.
2. Inspect your playgrounds and playground equipment on a regular, scheduled basis.
3. Check your playground(s) for hazardous conditions. Equipment should be inspected for such things as loose or protruding bolts, missing hardware, damaged seats, open "S" hooks or chains, wear of chains, broken parts and splintering of wood surfaces.
4. All debris and litter including broken glass, stones, bottles, cans, etc. should be removed.
5. Loose-fill safety surfacing requires periodic raking to retain resilience in high use areas.
6. Playgrounds should be supervised at all times when children are present.
7. Playground supervisors should not allow children to use equipment incorrectly (i.e. running up slides, climbing on top of horizontal ladders or hand ring bridges, jumping out of swings, etc.)
8. Playground equipment should be installed to allow for safe transition between play apparatus.
9. Playground equipment should always be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.
10. A regular playground inspection schedule can be established equal to the use and location factors of the park or playground. Certain playgrounds could require daily inspections, others may require only weekly inspections.