

Playground Safety Checklist

Name of Facility:

Location:

Date:

Surfacing

- () Surfaces underneath indoor and outdoor play equipment that children can climb are covered with impact-absorbing material according to the CPSC recommendations for critical height.
- () The following surfacing materials are not in use underneath indoor and outdoor play equipment that children can climb: asphalt, concrete, soil or hard-packed dirt, grass, turf, linoleum, or carpeting.
- () There are no toys or objects (including surfacing material) with a diameter less than 1 ¼" accessible to children who are still placing objects in their mouths.
- () Measure the highest point that a child can climb to (critical height). For swings, the critical height is measured from the pivot point where the swing is suspended down to the ground. For elevated structures with guard rails, the critical height is measured from the top of the guard rail down to the ground. The highest accessible part for platforms with protective barriers is the deck. For all other structures, the critical height is measured from the highest point of the structure down to the ground.

Height of Equipment	Type of Minimum Uncompressed Depth at Point of Impact
4 Feet	9" of fine sand; 9" of pea gravel; 6" of shredded/recycled rubber; 9" of wood mulch (non CCA); 9" of wood chips
5 Feet	9" of pea gravel; 6" of shredded/recycled rubber; 9" of wood mulch (non CCA); 9" of wood chips
7 Feet	6" of shredded/recycled rubber; 9" of wood mulch (non CCA); 9" of wood chips
10 Feet	6" of shredded/recycled rubber; 9" of wood chips

CPSC has determined shredded/recycled rubber does not compress in the same manner. For poured or installed surfaces, materials must meet ASTM 1292 requirements, verified through a written statement from the manufacturer.

Fall Zones

- () Fall zones (the areas onto which a child falling from or exiting from a piece of play equipment would be expect to land) do not overlap.
- () Impact-absorbing surfacing material extends at least 6 ft. beyond all sides of equipment.
- () To-fro swings: the impact-absorbing surfacing material extends in front and in back of the swings a distance that measures twice the height of the swing beam.
- () Slides: the impact-absorbing surfacing material extends at least 6 ft. from the end of the slide chute, or a distance that equals the height of the slide platform plus 4 ft. **whichever is greater.** It is not necessary for the surfacing material to exceed 14 ft.

Protrusion & Entanglement

- () All metal edges are rolled.
- () There are no equipment pieces that could catch clothing. There are no strings or loose items on children's clothing or around children's necks that could get caught on play equipment.
- () Any exposed bolts do not protrude more than two threads beyond the face of the nut; exposed bolts have no burrs or sharp edges.
- () There are no open "S" hooks.

Entrapment

- () There are no openings in any piece of active equipment between 3 ½" and 9" that could cause head entrapment.

Equipment Spacing

- () There are at least 6 ft. of use space on all sides of each piece of equipment.
- () Play equipment pieces are spaced at least 12ft. apart from each other (each has its own 6ft. use space).

Trip Hazards

- () All anchoring devices, such as footings and bars at the bottom of climbers, are below the playing surface.
- () There are no exposed tree/plant roots.
- () Changes in elevation are made obvious by the use of brightly colored visual or other barriers.

Appropriate Activities & Equipment

- () Age-specific play areas are separated by distance or physical barrier.
- () Equipment is warranted by the manufacturer as suitable for the ages of the users (2-5yrs and 5-12yrs) according to ASTM Standard F1487-01.

Pinch, Crush, & Shearing Points

- () All spaces are too big or too small to entrap a child's finger.
- () All wooden parts are smooth and without splinters.
- () All corners are rounded, especially at exit ends and sides along a slide bed.
- () Exposed ends of tubing have caps that cannot be removed without tools.

Guardrails, Handrails, and Safety Barriers

- () Guardrails or protective barriers are used to prevent inadvertent or unintentional falls off elevated platforms.
- () For preschool children: elevated surfaces more than 20" high have a guardrail or protective barrier; those more than 30" high have a protective barrier (an enclosing device that is intended to prevent both inadvertent and deliberate attempts to pass through the barrier).
- () For school age children: elevated surfaces more than 30" high have a guardrail or protective barrier; those more than 48" high have a protective barrier.
- () Handrails are child hand-hold sized, and are at waist to shoulder height of the child users (22"-38").
- () Boundaries such as painted lines or dividers separate play equipment from walking areas.
- () Bike or trike riding areas are separate from other areas.
- () Playgrounds are fenced in.

Unsafe Equipment

- () There are no heavy swings or swings made out of wood, metal, or other rigid materials.
- () There are no animal figure swings.
- () There are no multiple-use occupancy swings (swings used by more than one child at a time) other than tire swings.

- () There are no swing sets with more than 2 swings per bay.
- () There are no rope swings; all ropes are anchored at both ends.
- () There are no trapeze bars.
- () Any see-saw present have a spring centering device for children 2-5 yrs of age. If see-saws are used, there must be a shock absorbing material required to cushion seat impact on surface and the maximum height of the seat above the protective surfacing must not exceed 5 ft.
- () There are no trampolines.

Maintenance

- () Daily checks include: broken glass, animal waste, trash, toxic plants or plant debris, damage by vandals, displaced surfacing, broken equipment, chipping paint, puddles of water, insect hazards, need for lubrication of moving parts.
- () All hardware fasteners, permanent coverings, or connecting devices are tight and cannot be removed without tools.
- () All surfaces are intact.
- () All structures are sturdy enough that they will not move or tip over when the weight of an adult is put against them.
- () There is no peeling paint. (Lead in peeling paint on play equipment is a common hazard).
- () All ropes are tight and strands cannot be pulled apart.

Supervision

- () All areas where children can play are in view of an adult at all times.
- () Children are prevented from playing in a way that challenges them beyond their abilities or that puts others at risk of significant injury.
- () There is a fence that encloses the play area.
- () Children wear helmets when riding a bike or tricycle.

Slides

- () Slides are no taller than 6 ½ ft. and have side rims at least 4" high.
- () Slides have an enclosed platform at the top for children to get into position to slide.
- () Slide ladders have flat steps and a handrail on each side. For users 2-12 yrs of age, steps are < 9" apart. Rungs are < 12" apart (check for entrapment if less than 9").
- () Slide beds have a flat surface at the bottom to slow children down and are sloped at no greater than a 30° angle overall.
- () Slides with metal beds are shaded to prevent overheating.

Swings

- () Swings are located away from other equipment and activities.
- () Swing footings are stable and buried below the ground or covered by protective surfacing.
- () There is no corrosion evident on hooks or chains.
- () There are no "A" frames with horizontal cross bars present.
- () Tot swings are in a separate bay from the other swings.
- () Swing hangers are spaced wider than the seats, not less than 20".
- () There is a minimum space of 24" between seats and 30" between the swing and supportive structure.
- () The distance between the bottom of the seat and the protective surface is at least 12".

Multi-Axis Tire Swings

- () Tire swings do not share a bay with any other type of swing or are mounted on any structure with other play components.
- () There are no exposed steel belts in steel-belted radial tire swings.
- () There are drain holes in tire swing tires.
- () The minimum clearance between tire and support structure is 30".
- () The tire swing itself weighs less than 35 lbs.

Climbers

- () Climbers have a safe way off for children who cannot complete the activity.
- () No places exist where children can fall more than 18" onto any component of the climber.
- () Connections between ropes, cables, or chains are securely fixed.
- () There are no arch climbers or sliding poles accessible to preschoolers.
- () Horizontal ladders and overhead rings are used only by children who are over 5 yrs of age. Chinning bars may be used by 4 yr olds.

Merry-Go-Rounds

- () The platform is continuous, approximately circular.
- () There are no components, including handgrips, that extend beyond the perimeter of the platform.
- () Unless the merry-go-round is tub shaped, there are 1-1 ½" handgrips available.
- () There are no accessible shearing or crush points.
- () Peripheral speed of rotation is limited to 13 ft. per second.

Spring Rocking Equipment

- () The seat accommodates only the intended number of users at one time.
- () There are hand grips and foot rests for each seating position.
- () Handgrips are between 1-1 ½" in diameter; minimum length 3" for one hand, and 6" for 2 hands.
- () Foot rests are a minimum width of 3 ½".
- () Seats are not less than 14" nor more than 28" above platform surface.

Additional Comments:

Playground Layout

