



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The following are a few basic suggestions to consider for playground installation and maintenance.

- Equipment and installation shall comply with the Playground Equipment Safety Act, Public Act No 16, effective May 1, 1998. The Consumer Product Safety Commission, “Handbook for Public Playground Safety” is referenced in PA 16. *
- Installation or supervised by experienced, licensed/insured contractor.
- Holes drilled into bottom of tires for drainage of water.
- Plastic surfaces preferred to wood (fewer injuries & less maintenance).
- Wood naturally rot-resistant (e.g., cedar or redwood) or pressure treated with non-toxic and non-irritating chemicals to prevent wood rot.
- Straight slides with open chutes should have sides with a 4-inch minimum height extending along both sides of the chute for the entire length of sliding surface.
- Slide inclines no greater than 30 degrees from horizontal.
- Slide exit region 7-15 inches above protective surfacing, if slide over 4 feet in height.
- All equipment bases in concrete, with concrete below grade.
- 12+ inches of cushioning material under and around equipment-wood chips, mulch, pea gravel, etc.; plan to replenish this at least annually.
- Placement of swings away from other activities or equipment, at least six feet from swing arch.
- Periodic inspections must be arranged after installation, looking for wood splinters, loose bolts, pinch points, damaged swing components, etc. (Sample playground safety checklist on reverse side.)
- Immediately remove any defective equipment from use.

* “Handbook for Public Playground Safety” is available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207, (1-800-638-2772) or on their website (www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUBS/PUBS325.pdf).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us at (517) 372-9310 or 1-800-395-5565.



MONTHLY PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

- No Visible cracks, bending, warping, or rusting of any component.
- No Deformation of hooks, shackles, rings, links, etc.
- No Open "S" hooks.
- No Openings in guardrails more than 3½ inches.
- No Worn swing hangers and chains.
- No Missing, damaged, or loose swing seats, or seats with sharp edges.
- No Broken supports/anchors.
- No Accessible sharp edges or points.
- No Exposed ends of tubing that should be covered by plugs or caps.
- No Protruding bolt ends that do not have smooth finished caps.
- No Loose bolts, nuts, etc.
- No Splintered, cracked or otherwise deteriorated wood.
- No Lack of lubrication of moving parts.
- No Worn bearings.
- No Broken or missing rails, steps, seats.
- No Surface material worn or scattered in landing pits, etc.
- No Hard surfaces under and 6 feet around swings, slides, etc.
(have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, pea gravel, etc.).
- No Chipped or peeling paint.
- No Vandalism (broken glass, trash).
- No Pinch or crush points (exposed mechanisms, junctures of moving components).
- No Tripping hazard such as roots, rocks or other environmental objects.
- No Poor drainage areas.

DATE OF INSPECTION: _____

INSPECTED BY: _____

LIST ANY ADVERSE CONDITIONS AT TIME OF INSPECTION:
