

WEEKLY
MAINTENANCE
CHECK POINTS

- Broken equipment, loose bolts, missing end caps, etc.
- Broken glass & other trash
- Cracks in plastic
- Loose anchoring
- Hazardous or dangerous debris
- Insect damage
- Problems with surfacing
- Displaced loose-fill material
- Holes, flakes, buckling of unitary surfacing
- User modification (ropes tied to parts or equipment rearranged)
- Vandalism
- Worn, loose, damaged, or missing parts
- Wood splitting
- Rusted or corroded metals
- Rot

Playground Safety

VOLUME 1, EDITION 6



Safe Play Areas



The Consumer Products Safety Council, (CPSC), publishes the voluntary standards for public playground safety. These are contained in a free handbook that can be downloaded from their website at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/325.pdf>

The following is a brief summary of some of the key requirements for maintaining safe community play areas:

Site Selection

- Do not locate near accessible hazards such as roads with traffic, lakes, ponds, streams, drop-offs/cliffs, etc
- Too much sun can overheat surfaces, consider shady areas
- Good drainage to prevent loose fill materials washing out

Equipment Selection

- Purchase from reputable manufacture or distributor, who comply with CPSC standards. Some specific equipment to avoid includes:
- Trampolines
- Swinging Gates
- Giant strides

- Climbing ropes
- Rope swings
- Exercise rings and trapeze bar

Surface Material Selection

There are two options for surfacing: unitary and loose-fill material. A playground should never be installed without protective surfacing of some type. Approved surfacing material includes:

- Tested to ASTM F1292, including unitary surfaces, engineered wood fiber, etc
- Pea gravel
- Sand
- Shredded/recycled rubber mulch
- Wood mulch (not CCA treated)
- Wood Chips

Refer to the CPSC handbook for complete depth and installation requirements, (Page 10, Table 2 is copied below)



Table 2. Minimum compressed loose-fill surfacing depths

Inches	Of	(Loose-Fill Material)	Protects to	Fall Height (feet)
9		Shredded/recycled rubber		10
9		Sand		4
9		Pea Gravel		5
9		Wood mulch (non-CCA)		7
9		Wood chips		10