

Routine Playground Inspection Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Broken equipment such as loose bolts, missing end caps, cracks, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Broken glass & other trash
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Cracks in plastics
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Loose anchoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Hazardous or dangerous debris
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Insect damage
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Problems with surfacing
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Displaced loose-fill surfacing (see Section 4.3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Holes, flakes, and/or buckling of unitary surfacing
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	User modifications (such as ropes tied to parts or equipment rearranged)
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Vandalism
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Worn, loose, damaged, or missing parts
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Wood splitting
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Rusted or corroded metals
<input type="checkbox"/> Obs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Obs	Rot

*note concerns regarding the areas listed above or other concerns on the reverse side of this form.

Observer: _____

Date: _____

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Concerns from front of form:

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4.3 Maintaining Loose-Fill Surfacing

Playground should be checked frequently to ensure surfacing has not displaced significantly, particularly in areas of the playground most subject to displacement (e.g., under swings and slide exits). This can be facilitated by marking ideal surfacing depths on equipment posts. Displaced loose-fill surfacing should be raked back into proper place so that a constant depth is maintained throughout the playground. Impact attenuating mats placed in high traffic areas, such as under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. They should be installed below or level with surfacing so as not to be a tripping hazard.

The following are key points to look for during regular checks of surfacing:

- Areas at slide exits. Activity in these areas tends to displace surfacing quickly. Rake loose-fill back into place.
- Pooling water on mulch surfacing. For example, wet mulch compacts faster than dry, fluffy mulch. If puddles are noticed regularly, consider addressing larger drainage issues.
- Frozen surfacing. Most loose-fill surfacing that freezes solid no longer functions as protective surfacing.

12/2010

Resource: US Consumer Product Safety Commission: Playground Safety Handbook

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