

Playground Safety Checklist



1

Is your swing set anchored?

2

Is an acceptable depth of surfacing materials (e.g. loose-fill: sand, gravel, wood chips) around playground equipment. Suggested guideline is 12 inches depth for equipment up to 8 feet in height. Surfacing should extend at least 6 feet in all directions from the equipment.

3

Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart. Swings should be at least 24" from each other and 30 inches from supports.

4

Check for dangerous hardware, like sharp points or edges, "S" hooks and protruding bolt ends. Make sure they are removed, closed or covered. Are the nuts and bolts tight?

5

Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.

6

Is wooden equipment free of splinters, rough surfaces, or protruding nails? Are there any cracked or broken plastic parts?

7

Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.

8

Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.

9

Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition. Are there any stress tears in metal slides, broken swings, pinch points?

10

Are any climbing ropes secured at both ends?

11

Are small sandboxes covered at night to protect from animals? Does a plastic sandbox have proper drainage? Is the sand checked for debris and raked to expose sand to the sun?

12

Is the play area free of trash, hazardous materials, and animal waste?

13

Can the entire play area be seen easily for proper supervision?