

Inspection and Maintenance Program for Playspaces

Playground owners/operators are responsible for determining appropriate inspection and maintenance schedules for play spaces. The following are considered best practice for ensuring the ongoing safety of playspaces:

- A visual inspection of the playspace area should be performed by the owner, maintenance inspector, caregiver, or custodian on a daily basis. Daily checks could identify problems such as vandalism, broken glass and other hazardous or dangerous debris.
- Weekly and monthly basic maintenance inspections of playspace equipment should be completed to identify defects or emerging problems with the equipment. Such inspections could identify problems such as loose anchoring, problems with surfacing, broken equipment such as loose bolts, missing end caps, cracks in the plastic, etc. These inspections may be done by simple observation for facilities that do not have access to a playground inspection kit or to a CPSI Certified playground inspector. A sample basic maintenance inspection checklist is attached (Appendix 1).
- Maintenance and repairs to equipment and the replacement of components should be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- The owner/operator should keep inspection and maintenance reports on file for at least two years. These records can be used when investigating injury incidents and show due diligence.

The following is a sample basic playground maintenance inspection checklist that you can use to create your own checklist or use for your own inspections.

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Sample Basic Playground Maintenance Inspection Checklist

Date of Inspection: _____ **Person Responsible:** _____ **Location:** _____

Type of Surfacing

Loose Fill: ___ Pea Gravel ___ Rubber Tile ___ Wood Fibre ___ Rubber Crumb ___ Sand Depth is ___ inches

Unitary Material: ___ Rubber Pour in Place ___ Artificial Grass Turf

	YES	NO	N/A	Action Taken
1. SURFACING				
• Depth of loose-fill material adequate (30.5 cm/12 inches of non-compact material pea gravel/sand, 12 inches of wood fibre, 20.5 cm/8 inches of rubber crumb)				
• Loose fill material well maintained and free of weed/grass invasion				
• Border to contain loose-fill material in good condition				
• Adequate condition of rubber tiles, pour in place rubber, or artificial turf (no cracks, large gaps between tiles, large pieces breaking off, torn turf)				
• No items obstructing the protective surfacing zone/fall zone around elevated equipment (6 feet obstacle free zone on all sides of equipment)				
2. SIGNAGE				
• Recommended age signage in place and visible				
• Playground owner contact information available				
3. GROUND HAZARDS				
• NO Animal feces				
• NO Broken glass/litter				
• NO Standing water				
• NO Trip hazards (holes, tree roots, exposed concrete footings, loose items)				
4. FENCING (IF APPLICABLE)				
• Fence in good repair				
• Fence free of hazards such as nails, splinters, etc.				
5. EQUIPMENT: GENERAL				
• NO Entanglement hazards (gaps around slides/sliding poles)				
• NO Head/neck entrapment hazards (openings great than 3.5 and less than 9 inches)				
• NO Loose components (nuts/bolts/handholds/guardrails/steps/rungs)				
• NO Pinch, crush, or shear points				
• NO Protrusion hazards (bolt ends projecting from equipment)				
• NO Sharp points, corners, edges, or loose welds				
• NO Suspended hazards (cables, wires, ropes)				
• NO Looping hazards (ropes, cables & chains secured at both ends)				
• NO Missing/broken parts				
• NO Metal rust/wood rot				
• NO Worn/frayed cables				
• Equipment is stable/secure and will not overturn				
• Safe fastening devices – S-hooks/connective devices closed and secure				
• Hardware including chains/hangers in good condition				
• NO Standing water on or in equipment				

NOTES:

Note: This inspection checklist is intended to be a basic maintenance inspection checklist and may have been completed without full testing using the playground test kit. It is recommended that annual inspections be completed by a CPSI Certified Playground Inspector using an approved playground inspection kit.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

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