

CRITICAL HEIGHTS OF PROTECTIVE SURFACING*

Material	Uncompressed Depth	Uncompressed Depth	Uncompressed Depth	Compressed Depth
	150 mm (6 in.)	225 mm (9 in.)	300 mm (12 in.)	225 mm (9 in.)
Wood Chips	2.1 m (7 ft.)	3.0 m (10 ft.)	3.3 m (11 ft.)	3.0 m (10 ft.)
Double-shredded bark mulch	1.8 m (6 ft.)	3.0 m (10 ft.)	3.3 m (11 ft.)	2.1 m (7 ft.)
Engineered wood fibres	1.8 m (6 ft.)	2.1 m (7 ft.)	3.6 m (12 ft.)	1.8 m (6 ft.)
Fine sand	1.5 m (5 ft.)	1.5 m (5 ft.)	2.7 m (9 ft.)	1.5 m (5 ft.)
Coarse sand	1.5 m (5 ft.)	1.5 m (5 ft.)	1.8 m (6 ft.)	1.2 m (4 ft.)
Fine gravel	1.8 m (6 ft.)	2.1 m (7 ft.)	3 m (10 ft.)	1.8 m (6 ft.)
Medium gravel	1.5 m (5 ft.)	1.5 m (5 Ft.)	1.8 m (6 ft.)	1.5 m (5 ft.)
Shredded tires	3.6 m (12 ft.)	N/A	N/A	N/A

* - Source of Data - Table 1, Page 97 - CSA-Z614-98 - Children's Playspaces and Equipment (May, 1998)

Playground Safety:

As many as 70% of serious playground injuries result from falls onto inadequate or improperly maintained ground surface beneath the play structures. Although it may be difficult or expensive to retrofit or replace the play structure with CSA-compliant equipment, maintaining proper protective surfacing can be one of the most effective risk management strategies to reduce serious playground injuries.

The above table indicates the MINIMUM depth of the given materials necessary to protect against head injuries from the fall heights indicated.

Maintaining the protective surfacing to at least the MINIMUM depth indicated is crucial to providing reliable protection against injury.

Most types of protective surfacing are ineffective at temperatures below freezing - PLAYGROUNDS SHOULD NOT BE USED DURING WINTER CONDITIONS.

MONTHLY PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

EQUIPMENT	CHAINS	ACTION REQUIRED	DATE COMPLETED
Swing, Tot	S-HOOKS/C-HOOKS		
Swing, Tot	SEATS/TIRES		
Swing, Tot	HANGER BEARINGS		
Swing, Tot	GREASE FITTINGS		
Swing, Tot	STABILITY IN GROUND/TILTING		
Swing, Tot	EXPOSED CONCRETE		
Swing, Tot	ENTANGLEMENT POINTS		
Swing, Tot	UNIVERSAL JOINT		
Swing, Tot	CHAIN COVERS		
Swing, Tot	HAND RAILINGS		
Swing, Tot	SUPPORT BARS/LEGS		
Swing, Tot	FASTENING POINT AREAS		
Swing, Tot	SIDEWALLS & BEDWAYS		
Swing, Tot	ENTRAPMENT POINT AREAS		
Swing, Tot	SHARP EDGES/POINTS		
Swing, Tot	STAIRS/STEPS		
Swing, Tot	PLASTIC COMPONENTS-DAMAGE		
Swing, Tot	SPRING & BAR		
Swing, Tot	HANDLES		
Swing, Tot	PIVOT POINTS		
Swing, Tot	NUTS & BOLTS		
Swing, Tot	GROUND CLEARANCE		
Swing, Tot	LOCKING DEVICES (INT./EXT.)		
Swing, Tot	WOOD CHECKING (MAX 3/4")		
Swing, Tot	PROTRUSIONS		
Swing, Tot	CAPS/PLUGS		
Swing, Tot	PROTECTIVE SURFACING		
Swing, Tot	EQUIPMENT SPACING/NO-ENCROACH		
Swing, Tot	BENCHES		
Swing, Tot	DEBRIS/BROKEN GLASS		
Swing, Tot	ASPHALT PATHS, ETC.		
Swing, Tot	LIGHTING		
Swing, Tot	SIGNS		
Swing, Tot	FENCING		
Swing, Tot	CONDITION - SATISFACTORY		
Swing, Tot	CONDITION - ATTENTION REQUIRED		
Swing, Belt			
Swing, Tie			
Slides			
Spring Toys			
See Saws			
Climbers			
Merry-Go-Rounds/ Whirls			
Composite Playstructure (1)			
Composite Playstructure (2)			
General Site Conditions			

CONDITION LEGEND:

- ✓ Satisfactory
- ✗ Attention Required

Location: _____

Inspected By: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Notes: _____

**This play space is
regularly inspected by
ABC District School Board**

Please report any damage or problems
by calling: 824-XXXX

This play space is ***UNSUPERVISED*** after
school hours and is intended for users
between the ages of
and years.

NO WINTER MAINTENANCE

Please ...

- No Skipping Ropes on play structure
- No clothing with drawstrings

WEEKLY PLAYGROUND INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Location Name: _____

Address: _____

Date Inspected: _____

Check when
complete

Check for and remove loose garbage, debris, broken glass, animal droppings on play area ground surface.	
Check play structure for obvious signs of damage, vandalism or broken parts. (Advise Management immediately if service is needed)	
Check for and remove skipping ropes or any other ropes or climbing devices which have been attached to but are not a permanent part of the playground structure.	
Rake sand/gravel to replenish areas beneath swing bays, slide exits and fire poles.	
Empty garbage can(s) located in playground area.	

Action Items or General Comments:

Completed By: _____

School Board Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____