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Steps to Playground SAFETY



1

Playground equipment should have 12 or more inches deep of safety surfacing materials such as wood chips, mulch, sand, pea gravel, or rubber-like materials to help absorb impact from falls.

2

Safety surfacing materials must extend at least 6 feet in all directions from playground equipment. For swings, be sure the safety surfacing extends twice the height of the suspending bar in the front and back.

3

Prevent falls and strangulation risk by ensuring that openings such as railings or ladder rungs are less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.

4

Play structures that are more than 30 inches tall need to be spaced at least 9 feet apart.

5

Playground equipment and the surrounding safety surfacing need to be checked regularly for damage and wear.

6

Check equipment regularly for sharp points or edges and for dangerous hardware including open "s" hooks or protruding bolt ends.

7

Eliminate tripping hazards such as exposed concrete footings, tree roots or stumps, and rocks.

8

Platforms, ramps, and elevated surfaces need to have guardrails to prevent falls.

9

Inspect shade structures for tears, rips, and rust. Make sure they are clear of debris.

10

Adult supervision is the best way to prevent playground injuries.

