



## Playground Safety Tip

### Fall Surface

It is extremely important to make sure you have a proper surface under all climbing equipment to protect children from falls. Many different types of materials can be used for a fall surface. Some examples include wood mulch, engineered wood fiber, sand, pea gravel, shredded rubber tires, rubber safety mats, poured in place rubber, synthetic turf, etc.



If your playground has loose fill materials such as wood mulch, engineered wood fiber, or shredded rubber tires, you should check the depth of the material to ensure you have the proper depth for the height of your equipment. If your equipment is 6 feet high, then the depth and thickness of your material should be appropriate for a child to fall from that height. Depth and thickness would have been determined and tested by the company you purchased the material from.

With loose fill materials as a fall surface, children frequently create wear spots at the ends of slides, under swings, high traffic zones, and near climbing equipment. Therefore, it is best to go out daily and rake the material back into place. The best way to ensure the children's safety is to continually fill these areas that are eroded away through play.



For fall surfaces such as rubber mats, poured in place rubber, and synthetic turfs, you should check with your manufacturer on the recommended type of inspection. Overall, you should be looking for cracks in the material, thin areas where the top surface is worn off, tears, cuts, and any type of deterioration.

For more detailed information about your fall surface material, find out who manufactured or provided your material and ask them for the best ways to inspect it.

Everyone at The Adventurous Child values playground safety and we'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to email or call us at any time with your questions.

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