



## Playground Safety Tip

### Use Zone

When checking your fall surfaces for depth, wear, and tear (See the “Fall Surface” Safety Tip for more information), it is also important to check the actual use zone. The use zone is how far these protective surfacing materials extend in all directions beyond the play equipment. For most static equipment, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that the use zone be at least 6 feet out in all directions from the exterior of the equipment.



For swings, there are several different recommendations depending on the type of swing, the height of swing, and the age of the swing user. To get proper surfacing dimensions for swings, we recommend that you refer to the [CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook](#) and review section 5.3.8 on pages 37-41.



Here at The Adventurous Child, we typically take whatever the use zone dimensions need to be according to the CPSC guidelines and we add 6 inches to 1 foot in all directions. This extra area helps maintain the proper use zone dimensions as wear and tear occurs on the surface. Also, if equipment is not installed exactly in the center of the surfacing, the extra area helps to ensure that you will still have the correct amount of surfacing in all directions.

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 call or email us at any time with your questions.

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