

Public Playground Safety Checklist

Here are 10 important tips for parents and community groups to keep in mind to help ensure playground safety.

- 1** Make sure **surfaces** around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
- 2** Check that protective **surfacing extends** at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- 3** Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are **spaced** at least 9 feet apart.
- 4** Check for **dangerous hardware**, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
- 5** Make sure **spaces** that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- 6** Check for **sharp points or edges** in equipment.
- 7** Look out for **tripping hazards**, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- 8** Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have **guardrails** to prevent falls.
- 9** Check **playgrounds regularly** to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.
- 10** **Carefully supervise children** on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.

For additional copies, write: Playground Checklist, CPSC, Washington, DC 20207; call CPSC's toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-2772; or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov.