



Playground Material Installation and Guidelines

Installing and maintaining loose-fill surfacing requires frequent inspections as well as periodic maintenance. Please follow the basic guidelines below:

Before Installation

- Before the primary installation of the Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF), remove all vegetation, rocks, roots, and other protrusions to bare soil. Grade and level the area so that it drains consistently and quickly after a rain to reduce mold and fungus and increase the life of the EWF. Do not use any chemicals like herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides in the area.
- Borders must meet safety standards designated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to keep the wood fiber in place and at a proper depth. Treated lumber products containing CCA (Copper Chromated Arsenate) or railroad ties are not suitable. Installing an ADA compliant ramp to the playground is recommended.

During Installation

- The primary install of the material should be at a minimum compacted depth of 12", which typically will require 16" of uncompacted material at a 25% compaction rate. To achieve maximum impact, attenuation requires a minimum of 12" of compacted material. A depth of 12" of EWF must be maintained after compaction to prevent injury.
- In high traffic areas of the playground, wear mats can be placed on top of the EWF to prevent holes. Wear mats should be installed so that the edge is below the surface so that it does not create an accessibility or tripping hazard.

After Installation

- Every week the playground surface should be inspected to remove foreign objects that could cause injury.
- The playground must be kept level, and material should be added as necessary to maintain the proper depth of 12". Weekly checks of the depth should occur. You may want to mark the base of playground equipment or inside the border after installation to give a marker of where the level must remain to maintain the proper depth in the future.
- Pay close attention to high traffic areas at the base of swings and slides, as this material becomes displaced more rapidly.
- We recommend maintaining the following records at a minimum:
 - Manufacturer's installation process
 - Manufacturer's installation maintenance instructions
 - Inspections performed
 - Any accidents
 - Material added to maintain proper depth

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