



Position Statement: Plastic Slides

Due to the thermo dynamics and lower heat transfer properties of plastics, plastic slides are preferred over metal slides for play equipment. Although plastic slides may become as hot as metal, they insulate better and don't transfer the heat as quickly. Because of these properties, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends plastic slides and plastic surfaces over bare metal.

Regardless of lower heat transfer properties, plastic play equipment can still become hot enough -- in extreme temperatures and direct sunlight -- to cause burns. Plastic slides are safe, tried and true, but as is the case with all playground equipment, parents and supervisors must monitor the children in their care, make certain that the equipment is appropriate for their age, and always check playground surfaces for excessive heat before allowing children to play.

With summer approaching, IPEMA also recommends the following ideas:

- Be sure your child has plenty of fluids. Playing outdoors can result in dehydration in the hot sun and children won't think about drinking water when they are playing.
- Make sure the playground equipment your child uses is properly designed, age appropriate, maintained and there's a safe, soft landing surface below.

For more information, contact IPEMA headquarters at communications@ipema.org or by calling 1-717-238-1744.