


It is up to you and your community to maintain a safe, friendly playground environment in order to reduce playground injuries.



Check for vandalism or debris especially after heavy-use events or inclement weather.

Detailed inspections should give special attention to moving parts and loose fill surfacing which can be displaced during play.

Inadequate maintenance of equipment is a common cause of injuries on playgrounds.

The safety of playground equipment depends on good inspections and systematic, routine maintenance. It is advisable for personnel who will implement the inspections to be trained through a program like the National Recreation and Park Association's "Certification Course for Playground Safety Inspectors".

The quality of playground supervision depends on the supervisor's knowledge of safe play behavior. Play Mart includes with each Owner's Manual a copy of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's Guidelines as a resource for your supervisors and inspectors.

Play Mart's staff of Certified Playground Inspectors have developed check lists and recommended inspection schedules to help our customers develop thorough and effective maintenance programs. These guidelines include a High Frequency Checklist for potential problems to be performed daily or weekly and a Low Frequency Maintenance Schedule for monthly or quarterly inspections. Records of all maintenance inspections and repairs should be retained, signed, dated and filed. **Maintenance documentation will be required for warranty claims, and Play Mart may refuse a claim if it is clear that the playset has not been maintained according to our recommended maintenance instructions and/or schedule.**



High Frequency Maintenance Inspection

(Daily or Weekly)

Check for the following potential problems:

1. Depth of surfacing material under swings, slide ends, climbers and fireman's poles – Owner's responsibility. Uneven surfacing material (may need raked level).
2. Vandalism (damage, graffiti, glass, trash, needles, etc.) Use water based paint remover on RSP for paint, markers, etc.
3. Damage to slides (see Low Frequency slide repair instructions).
4. Cracked or damaged posts or RSP components – contact Play Mart immediately
5. Hardware (loose or missing) especially on moving parts
6. Safety arches, rails, handles for loose, cracked or broken parts
7. Swing Seats (cut, cracked or missing)
8. Debris in ADA access route, on decks or steps
9. Standing water – allow for proper drainage.
10. Foreign objects in surfacing material
11. **Make sure caulk is still in place around "Slide Safety Plates"**
Reapply if it is missing.
11. Strings or Rope of any kind and remove them



Low Frequency Maintenance Schedule (Quarterly or Routine)

1. Make sure protective surfacing around play equipment is maintained at original installation depth. Engineered wood fiber needs to be refilled every year. This is owner's responsibility. Rake surfacing material out level where needed. Especially note the areas near swings and slides.
2. Check for any cracks or damage to posts or RSP. Contact Customer Service at Play Mart immediately.
3. To sanitize RSP - pressure wash with commercial grade soap and water. Diluted 2:1 bleach will remove mildew or mold. Do not get bleach on metal or moving parts.
4. Check plastic slides for vandalism or wear. Surface scratches can be repaired by using a small hand propane torch to heat plastic until the plastic warms and color brightens. Deeper cuts may require sanding lightly and then using the torch. Repeat as needed. Treat with "Armor-All" spray.
5. Check metal parts for scratches or vandalism. Clean scratch first with lacquer thinner, shield other play equipment and then spray lightly with enclosed color matching paint. Repeat for several coats until scratch is covered.
6. Check for any damage to or missing moving parts. Contact Customer Service at Play Mart for replacement parts.
7. Check that arches, handrails, climbing and sliding equipment are secure. Use enclosed square bit for tightening. Metal climber yokes can be tighten with enclosed T55 Torque bit.
8. Check for loose, missing, or rusty hardware, chain.
9. Check for missing bolt hole black caps (Extra are included in your kit).
10. Check for worn or dangerous hardware. i.e. open "S" hooks -opening wider than width of a credit card, protruding bolt ends – more than 1 thread, "S" hooks /moving parts worn more than 25%.
11. Check for cut, cracked, or missing swing seats.

4. MAINTAINING A PLAYGROUND

Inadequate maintenance of equipment has resulted in injuries on playgrounds. Because the safety of playground equipment and its suitability for use depend on good inspection and maintenance, the manufacturer’s maintenance instructions and recommended inspection schedules should be strictly followed. If manufacturer’s recommendations are not available, a maintenance schedule should be developed based on actual or anticipated playground use. Frequently used playgrounds will require more frequent inspections and maintenance.

4.1 Maintenance Inspections

A comprehensive maintenance program should be developed for each playground. All playground areas and equipment should be inspected for excessive wear, deterioration, and any potential hazards, such as those shown in Table 3. One possible procedure is the use of checklists. Some manufacturers supply checklists for general or detailed inspections with their maintenance instructions. These can be used to ensure that inspections are in compliance with the manufacturer’s specifications. If manufacturer-provided inspection guidelines are not available, a general checklist that may be used as a guide for frequent routine inspections of public playgrounds is included at Appendix A. This is intended to address only general maintenance concerns. Detailed inspections should give special attention to moving parts and other parts that can be expected to wear. Maintenance inspections should be carried out in a systematic manner by personnel familiar with the playground, such as maintenance workers, playground supervisors, etc.

4.2 Repairs

Inspections alone do not constitute a comprehensive maintenance program. Any problems found during the inspection should be noted and fixed as soon as possible.

- All repairs and replacements of equipment parts should be completed following the manufacturer’s instructions.
- User modifications, such as loose-ended ropes tied to elevated parts, should be removed immediately.
- For each piece of equipment, the frequency of thorough

Table 3. Routine inspection and maintenance issues

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Broken equipment such as loose bolts, missing end caps, cracks, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Broken glass & other trash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cracks in plastics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loose anchoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hazardous or dangerous debris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Insect damage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Problems with surfacing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Displaced loose-fill surfacing (see Section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Holes, flakes, and/or buckling of unitary surfacing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | User modifications (such as ropes tied to parts or equipment rearranged) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Vandalism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Worn, loose, damaged, or missing parts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wood splitting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rusted or corroded metals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rot |

inspections will depend on the type and age of equipment, the amount of use, and the local climate.

- Consult the manufacturer for maintenance schedules for each piece of equipment. Based on these schedules, a maintenance schedule for the entire playground can be created. This routine maintenance schedule should not replace regular inspections.

4.3 Maintaining Loose-Fill Surfacing

Loose-fill surfacing materials require special maintenance. High-use public playgrounds, such as child care centers and schools, should be checked frequently to ensure surfacing has not displaced significantly, particularly in areas of the playground most subject to displacement (e.g., under swings and slide exits). This can be facilitated by marking ideal surfacing depths on equipment posts. Displaced loose-fill

surfacing should be raked back into proper place so that a constant depth is maintained throughout the playground. Impact attenuating mats placed in high traffic areas, such as under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. They should be installed below or level with surfacing so as not to be a tripping hazard.

The following are key points to look for during regular checks of surfacing:

- Areas under swings and at slide exits. Activity in these areas tends to displace surfacing quickly. Rake loose-fill back into place.
- Pooling water on mulch surfacing. For example, wet mulch compacts faster than dry, fluffy mulch. If puddles are noticed regularly, consider addressing larger drainage issues.
- Frozen surfacing. Most loose-fill surfacing that freezes

solid no longer functions as protective surfacing. Even if the first few inches may be loose, the base layer may be frozen and the impact attenuation of the surfacing may be significantly reduced. It is recommended that children not play on the equipment under these conditions.

4.4 Recordkeeping

Records of all maintenance inspections and repairs should be retained, including the manufacturer's maintenance instructions and any checklists used. When any inspection is performed, the person performing it should sign and date the form used. A record of any accident and injury reported to have occurred on the playground should also be retained. This will help identify potential hazards or dangerous design features that should be corrected.