



HOME PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST



Use this simple checklist to help make sure your home playground is a safe place to play.

- 1** Install and maintain a **shock-absorbing surface** around the play equipment.
Use at least 9 inches of wood chips, mulch, or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7 feet high. If sand or pea gravel is used, install at least a 9-inch layer for play equipment up to 5 feet high. Or, use surfacing mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
- 2** Install protective **surfacing** 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** **Never attach**—or allow children to attach—**ropes**, jump ropes, clotheslines, or pet leashes to play equipment; children can strangle on these.
- 4** Check for **hardware**, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends, which can be hazardous.
- 5** Check for **spaces** that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs; these spaces should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- 6** Make sure platforms and ramps have **guardrails** to prevent falls.
- 7** Check for **sharp points** or edges in equipment.
- 8** Remove **tripping hazards**, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- 9** Regularly **check play equipment and surfacing** to make sure both are in good condition.
- 10** Carefully **supervise children** on play equipment to make sure they are safe.



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