



Modular Playground Maintenance Manual



Regular maintenance of your modular play unit is essential to prevent injuries on the playground environment. Much like your car, you should prepare a schedule of maintenance to check all points to ensure the performance and wear of your playground equipment. Documentation is recommended for future reference. The attached check list should be copied and filed upon each inspection. Use common sense regarding inspection planning especially if located in an area that experiences high levels of vandalism. Recommendation for inspections: Monthly or sooner depending on frequency of use.

Is your public playground a safe place to play?

Each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries associated with playground equipment. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground.

Use this simple checklist to help make sure your local community or school playground is a safe place to play.

Public Playground Safety Checklist

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.



Just a few pointers, use a common sense approach and check all aspects of the unit looking for damages while assuring structural integrity

Inspect all decks. Address any tears found in the plastic coating

Ensure the safety fall zone has been enforced

Ensure all hardware is tight, pull on components to test

Ensure fill material is at proper height and there are no depressions or missing fill

Ensure attachment points are firm and plastic is in good condition

PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

SITE: _____ DATE: _____
 WORK AREA: _____ INSPECTOR: _____

N/A S	U	LOCATION/COMMENT
___ ___	___	_____ All playground equipment securely anchored
___ ___	___	_____ Equipment anchored in concrete: concrete not raised above ground level
___ ___	___	_____ Playground equipment using chains: chain links not worn more than 50%
___ ___	___	_____ Chain to frame connectors not worn
___ ___	___	_____ Chains are connected to equipment with appropriate hardware
___ ___	___	_____ All "S" hooks in good condition and adequately crimped
___ ___	___	_____ Swing seats in good condition
___ ___	___	_____ All climbing apparatus rungs in good condition
___ ___	___	_____ All playground equipment free from sharp edges
___ ___	___	_____ Slide bedways in good condition
___ ___	___	_____ Slide ladders in good condition
___ ___	___	_____ No protruding pipes, long bolts or other such exposures
___ ___	___	_____ Adequate cushioning materials under all playground equipment
___ ___	___	_____ All wooden playground equipment free of cracks and splintered wood
___ ___	___	_____ No above-ground protrusions in play areas
___ ___	___	_____ No large holes around sprinklers
___ ___	___	_____ Over watering
___ ___	___	_____ Faucet leaks
___ ___	___	_____ Lighting
___ ___	___	_____ Insect pests

OTHER ITEMS

COMMENTS

Completed by: _____ Date: _____

cc: Program Coordinator; Dean, Career and Tech. Ed; Director of Administrative Services

Notification for action:

Grounds Maintenance
Building Maintenance
Security

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Daily Playground Inspection Checklist

Date of Inspection _____ Inspected by: _____

Area Inspected _____

Playground Surfaces				
	Yes	No	NA	Comments
Surface materials appropriate?				
Surface thickness correct? (12")				
Does it extend 6 feet in all directions?				
For swings, does it extend twice the height of the suspending bar in back and front?				
Any holes or gaps that need filling in?				
Other?				

Hardware				
	Yes	No	NA	Comments
Open "S" hooks?				
Exposed screws, bolts?				
Protruding end bolts?				
Exposed wires, broken fences?				
Any Other Unsafe Condition?				

Grounds				
	Yes	No	NA	Comments
Any tripping hazards, exposed concrete footing, tree stumps, rocks, etc.?				
Any broken glass, cans, soft drink pull-tabs, nails, etc?				
Any animal feces in the area?				

