

# STAY SAFE WITH SOCIETY

## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

More than 200,000 children receive treatment at hospital emergency rooms annually. The majority of these injuries involve falls from playground equipment.

Below is a simple checklist developed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to evaluate your playground.

### Checklist:

- Do surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, pea gravel, or have mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials?
- Ensure that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends twice the height of the suspending bar in back and in front.
- Are play structures more than 30 inches high spaced at least 9 feet apart?
- Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
- Do spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guard rails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches?
- Check to make sure that there are no loose ropes.
- Check for sharp points or edges on equipment.
- Look out for tripping hazards like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guard rails to prevent falls.
- Check playgrounds regularly to ensure that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.
- Supervise children on playgrounds carefully to make sure they're safe.



**CHECK FOR DANGEROUS  
HARDWARE, LIKE  
OPEN "S" HOOKS  
OR PROTRUDING  
BOLT ENDS.**

A Small Detail  
That Can Make a  
Big Difference.

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This information is advisory, and it must not be assumed that it has detected all unsafe acts or conditions. This information is designed to assist you in recognizing potential safe work problems and not to establish compliance with any law, rule or regulation.

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