

Playground Safety, Routine Inspection and Maintenance

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) Playground Safety Handbook provides Best Practices for playground design, installation, maintenance and routine inspection process management [www.cpsc.gov PageFiles/122149/325.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/122149/325.pdf)

Two fundamental components of Playground Inspection and Maintenance Programs:

- Documentation of Routine Inspections and Maintenance
- Documentation of Annual Inspections

Suggested Procedures for Playground Inspection and Maintenance:

1. Pick at least two full time positions in facilities maintenance or a similar department and make those individuals specifically responsible for playgrounds inspection and maintenance.
2. Playground maintenance should be at least a weekly, monthly and then annual process with all appropriate written records. The maintenance crew and supervisor responsible for playground inspection and maintenance should, at a minimum:
 - Know and reference the CPSC Playground Safety Handbook.
 - Keep written records of all routine inspections.
 - The inspections should be used to help determine routine maintenance.
 - Use any standard inspection and maintenance record format, or make up your own to better match your specific playgrounds and equipment.
3. Annual inspections are best performed by a team including a manager, the supervisor and members of

the crew specifically responsible for playground inspection and maintenance.

- Annual inspections need to be thorough and detailed, documenting current conditions in a formal written format with photos.
- The inspection should include specific recommendations for repair, removal and/or replacement of equipment, surfacing, etc.
- Done according to the CPSC Playground Safety Handbook.
- Annual inspections should produce an official record that is used to guide budgetary allocation for playground upgrades.

What This Means for Counties

For Playground Safety Guides and a Playground Safety Inspections Checklist, refer to the CPSC link for access to the Safety Guides page and the Inspection Checklist page:

www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/Sports-Fitness-and-Recreation/Playground-Safety/Public-Playground-Safety-Checklist/

Other playground safety and product links:

- Public Playground Safety Resource / Similar to CPSC www.playgroundsafety.org
- ASTM Playground Surfacing Standard www.astm.org/Standards/F2223.htm
- Commercial Supplier / Burke Play Systems www.playitsafeplaygrounds.com/
- Colorado Supplier / Rubber Mulch Surfacing Materials www.frrubbermulch.com

For assistance, contact any member of the CTSI Loss Prevention Team at 303-861-0507