

Playground Hazard and Maintenance Assessment

This Assessment Tool is intended as a “hands on” checklist to review playground equipment and the surrounding playground maintenance requirements and identify playground hazards e.g. significant hazards

can cause serious injury or death. If the Tool is being used for a school playground, it is recommended for use twice a school term (Master copy can be photocopied for each assessment).

ASSESSMENT LOCATION:		TYPES OF EQUIPMENT:			DATE OF ASSESSMENT:
					COMPLETED BY:
					DATE NEXT ASSESSMENT DUE:
Items to be assessed: (Hazards)	Assessment Responses			Action: (What is the hazard, who will fix the hazard and when?)	Review: (Date hazard fixed and by whom?)
	Yes	No	N/A		
1. SURFACING:					
HARD SURFACES					
1.1 Is there concrete, asphalt or other non-impact absorbing material under play equipment? (<i>Any hard surface should be removed and replaced with an impact absorbing surface.</i>)					
LOOSE-FILL MATERIAL					
1.2 Is there adequate drainage to prevent rotting?					
1.3 Does it extend at least 2m from all equipment?					
1.4 Is the loose fill surface material checked weekly to ensure a depth of at least 20 – 25cm? (<i>Use a tool to dig down.</i>)					
1.5 Is it raked weekly to check for hygiene and foreign objects that may cause injury?					
1.6 Are the borders enclosing the loose fill surfacing secure?					
SYNTHETIC MATERIAL					
1.7 Is the surface material still in good condition and securely in place to provide impact absorption?					
2. EQUIPMENT:					
PLATFORMS, STRUCTURES AND FRAMES					
2.1 Does the maximum height from which the user can fall exceed 2.5m?*					
2.2 Are all structural foundations free of movement, checked for wear and below ground level?					
2.3 Are all structures free of rot or corrosion and have no missing parts, panels or fittings? (Check that plastic equipment is sound and free of cracks and deterioration from the sun.)					
2.4 Are all components free of unintended movement, warping or twisting?					
2.5 Are all components designed to prevent water entering enclosed areas and free of deterioration? (Check cap ends, grommets, on bolts or screws.)					
2.6 Are all components free of corrosion and bulging and all nails and fixings flush with surface or countersunk?					
2.7 Are all bolts and fasteners secure?					
2.8 Are all exposed protrusions and sharp edges removed? (Check for protruding nails, rivets and bolts which may need to be covered or sawn off.)					
2.9 Are platforms and other standing surfaces free of moss, mould and other unhygienic matter?					
2.10 Are all guardrails and barriers around decks and platforms secure, free of sharp edges and small enough for a child's grip?					
2.11 Are all equipment surfaces and parts in good order? (Check for splits, splinters, cracks, cuts and open joints.) Look at specific pieces of equipment such as swings and slides. Swing seats should be made of a soft material rather than wood. Slides should have a smooth surface and gradual surface at the bottom.					

* As per the current NZ Standards NZS 5828. This standard will be withdrawn and replaced by the end of 2003. The fall height may differ at that time.

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	Yes	No	N/A		
3. MOVING PARTS					
3.1 Are the covers or guards which conceal pinch, crush or entrapment points well maintained?					
3.2 Are all parts of each piece of equipment such as links, chains and fasteners, secure and not excessively worn? <i>(Check for empty bolt holes, loose pieces of chain, S hooks not tightly closed etc. Replace pieces if wear is noticeable.)</i> Look at specific pieces of equipment such as swings and swinging bridges.					
3.3 Has the equipment been lubricated where necessary?					
4. ROPES, CHAINS AND TYRES					
4.1 Are ropes and chains securely fastened and all frayed rope ends trimmed and repaired? <i>(Check that ropes have not been added to the original design.)</i>					
4.2 Are rope, chain or tyre nets in good repair and to the original design? <i>(Check that rope and chain nets are secured top and bottom.)</i>					
4.3 Are the rims on all tyres intact and drain holes clear? <i>(Check for reinforcing wires which may come loose and poke out.)</i>					
5. ACCESS AND ENTRANCE					
5.1 Are all access ramps and entrances to the equipment free of slipping and tripping hazards?					
5.2 Are all access and entrance points to the playground and equipment free of exposed protrusions and sharp edges?					
6. ENTRAPMENT AND ENTANGLEMENT					
6.1 Are all entrapment points eliminated? <i>(Check for any narrow openings, "V" shaped gaps or sharp angles hooks or protrusions, which could trap a child's head or limb.)</i>					
6.2 Are all steps, ladders, guardrails and nets large enough to let a child get their body right through?					
7. SANDPITS					
7.1 Is drainage from the sandpit adequate?					
7.2 Is the sand raked regularly to check for hygiene and foreign objects that may cause injury? <i>(Remove any polluted sand immediately and add new sand as required. The whole pit should be turned over to the full depth every 12 months.)</i>					
8. GENERAL SITE LAYOUT					
8.1 Is there enough space between equipment so that a child can move freely between areas without bumping or running into each other?					
8.2 Is the playground set out to allow for unobstructed supervision?					
8.3 Are pathways around the playground clear of hazards? <i>(Check for cracks, subsidence, jagged edges and signs of poor drainage such as puddles.)</i>					
8.4 Is the playground environment in good condition and free of rubbish? <i>(Check playing fields and concrete areas.)</i>					

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