

## ***PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST***

1. Make sure **surfaces** around playground equipment have at least 12 inches 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.

From the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s  
*Handbook for Public Playground Safety*,  
Publication No. 325. <http://www.cpsc.gov>