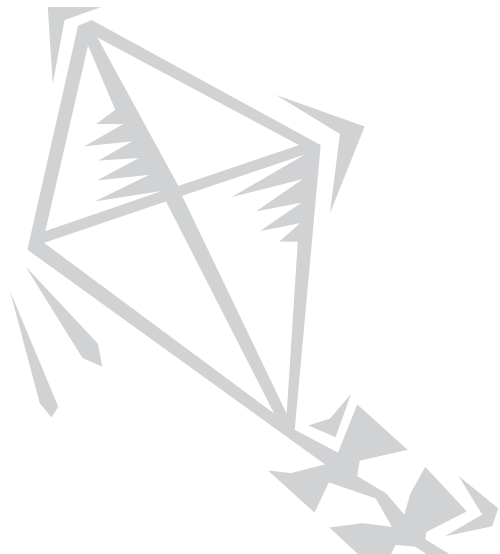


FACTS

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. Many backyard playsets are placed on dirt or grass—surfaces that do not adequately protect children when they fall.

**MAKE YOUR
BACKYARD
PLAYGROUND
A SAFE PLACE
TO PLAY!**



Brought to you by:

**U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission**



For more information on playground safety, visit the CPSC website at www.cpsc.gov to check out the *Handbook for Public Playground Safety* and other publications. Or, call the toll-free CPSC Hotline at 1-800-638-2772.



KaBOOM! is the national nonprofit organization committed to building safe playgrounds for America's children through partnership with individuals, community groups and businesses. For more information, visit the KaBOOM! web site at www.kaboom.org or call 1-202-659-0215.

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**IS YOUR
HOME
PLAYGROUND
A SAFE
PLACE TO
PLAY?**



From the
**U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission**
www.cpsc.gov
and



www.kaboom.org

HOME PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

Use this simple checklist to help make sure your home playground is a safe place to play.

- 1** Install and maintain a **shock-absorbing surface** around the play equipment. Use at least 9 inches of wood chips, mulch, or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7 feet high. If sand or pea gravel is used, install at least a 9-inch layer for play equipment up to 5 feet high. Or, use surfacing mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
- 2** Install protective **surfacing** 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** **Never attach**—or allow children to attach—**ropes**, jump ropes, clotheslines, or pet leashes to play equipment; children can strangle on these.
- 4** Check for **hardware**, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends, which can be hazardous.
- 5** Check for **spaces** that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs; these spaces should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- 6** Make sure platforms and ramps have **guardrails** to prevent falls.
- 7** Check for **sharp points** or edges in equipment.
- 8** Remove **tripping hazards**, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- 9** Regularly **check play equipment and surfacing** to make sure both are in good condition.
- 10** Carefully **supervise children** on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

