



SAFE COMMUNITY COALITION

Playground Safety

General

- Supervisors should be present and actively observing all ages of children on playgrounds.
- Teach children the rules to be followed on the playground.

Equipment and surrounding area

- Equipment should be in good condition and appropriate for the age of the users.
- Check equipment for hazards. For example, sharp points, corners, edges and potential clothing entanglement areas (S-hooks or protruding bolts).
- Check for proper drainage in the playground area. Water should not collect under or near equipment, especially under slides or swings, where ice could form and cause falls.

- Twelve inches of loose-fill surfacing should be placed under and around the playground equipment where children can fall. This creates a shock-absorbing surface producing a safe play area.
- Be sure there are no openings on playground equipment more than 3 1/3 inches or less than 9 inches where children's heads or bodies could be trapped.
- Be sure there are no broken or missing parts on the equipment such as handrails, guardrails or steps on ladders.
- Make sure the lead paint on equipment is not peeling, cracking or chipping. Also make sure there are no visible lead paint chips or accumulation of lead dust.

Written by: Madison Area SAFE KIDS Coalition

