

APPENDIX A
Suggested General Maintenance Checklist

The following checklist may be used to determine the condition of a playground. Numbers in parenthesis refer to sections in the handbook that discuss these issues. Place a check mark next to each of the following items that apply.

Surfacing (4)

- The equipment has adequate protective surfacing under and around it and the surfacing materials have not deteriorated.
- Loose-fill surfacing materials have no foreign objects or debris.
- Loose-fill surfacing materials are not compacted and do not have reduced depth in heavy use areas such as under swings or at slide exits.

General Hazards

- There are no sharp points, corners or edges on the equipment (9.1).
- There are no missing or damaged protective caps or plugs (9.1).
- There are no hazardous protrusions and projections (9.2).
- There are no potential clothing entanglement hazards, such as open S-hooks or protruding bolts (8.2, and 9.4).
- There are no pinch, crush, and shearing points or exposed moving parts (9.5).
- There are no trip hazards, such as exposed footings on anchoring devices and rocks, roots, or any other environmental obstacles in the play area (9.7).

Deterioration of the Equipment (7.2)

- The equipment has no rust, rot, cracks or splinters, especially where it comes in contact with the ground.
- There are no broken or missing components on the equipment (e.g., handrails, guardrails, protective barriers, steps or rungs on ladders) and there are no damaged fences, benches, or signs on the playground.
- All equipment is securely anchored.

Security of Hardware (7.2)

- There are no loose fastening devices or worn connections, such as S-hooks.
- Moving components, such as swing hangers or merry-go-round bearings, are not worn.

Drainage (6.1)

- The entire play area has satisfactory drainage, especially in heavy use areas such as under swings and at slide exits.

Leaded Paint (8.1)

- The leaded paint used on the playground equipment has not deteriorated as noted by peeling, cracking, chipping or chalking.
- There are no areas of visible leaded paint chips or accumulation of lead dust.

General Upkeep of Playgrounds (7.2)

- The entire playground is free from miscellaneous debris or litter such as tree branches, soda cans, bottles, glass, etc.
- There are no missing trash receptacles.
- Trash receptacles are not full.

NOTES:

Public Playground Safety Checklist

Here are 10 important tips for parents and community groups to keep in mind to help ensure playground safety.

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

For additional copies, write: Playground Checklist, CPSC, Washington, DC 20207; call CPSC's toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-2772; or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov.