

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (2004) published a checklist that can be used to evaluate the playground to determine if it is safe for play or whether or not maintenance is needed. Checklists are easy to use and require little time to complete. This checklist is presented in Figure 2. It can be modified to meet needs based on location or geography.

Figure 2: General Maintenance Checklist

Surfacing

- There is adequate protective surfacing under and around the equipment and without noticeable deterioration.
- There are no foreign objects or debris in the loose fill surfacing material.
- The loose fill surface material is not compacted and the safety depth has not been decreased.

General Hazards

- There are no sharp points, corners or edges on the equipment.
- There are no missing or damaged protective caps or plugs.
- There are no open S hooks or protruding bolts to entangle clothing.
- There are no pinch, crush and shearing points or exposed moving parts.
- There are no trip hazards such as exposed footings on anchoring devices, rocks and roots.

Deterioration of the Equipment

- No rust, rot, cracks or splinters on the equipment, especially where it comes in contact with the ground.
- There are no broken or missing components on the equipment and there is no damage to fences, benches or signs on the playground.
- All equipment is securely anchored.

Security of Hardware

- 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

- The entire play area has satisfactory drainage, especially in heavy use areas such as under the swings.

Lead Paint

- 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

- 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:



Good Anchors



Smooth and rounded bolt heads.

Pinch Points



U-bolt can cause pinches.



Pole anchor too close to pathways.

Broken Equipment



Broken seat connector.



Broken seat connector.



Broken platform clamp.



Broken hand grasp.

Bright Colors



Multi-colors.



Contrasts with surface material.



Bright contrast to surface material.

