



## Home Playground Safety Tips

Each year, more than 200,000 children will visit a hospital emergency room because of playground injuries. Most accidents occur when a child falls from the equipment onto dirt or grass — surfaces that do not adequately protect children.

To help make sure your home playground is a safe place for children, review the safety checklist.

## Home Playground Safety Checklist

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 of the material for play equipment up to 5 feet high.
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.** Sharp points or edges in equipment also can be dangerous to children.
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. Make sure platforms and ramps have guardrails to prevent falls.
6. **Remove tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps and rocks.**
7. **Regularly check play equipment and surfaces** to make sure both are in good condition.
8. **Carefully supervise children on play equipment** to make sure they are safe.