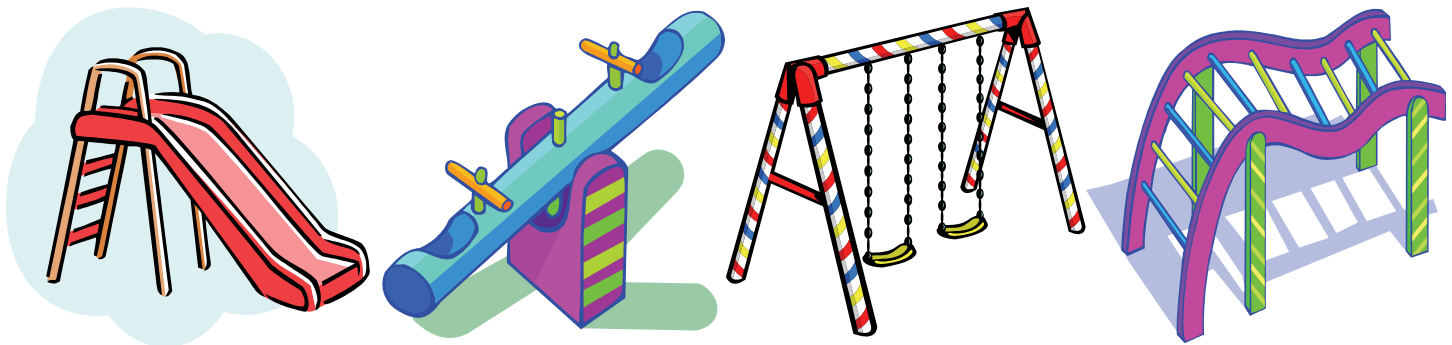


# HOME Playground Safety Checklist

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), each year, more than 200,000 children are brought to hospital emergency rooms with injuries sustained as a result of recreational activity on or around playground equipment. Falls from equipment onto the ground make up the vast majority of these injuries. Grass may be soft to the touch but it does not provide a safe ground cover for playground equipment. Therefore, in addition to parents/caregivers supervising their youngsters on backyard play equipment, they should also install a shock-absorbing surface beneath such equipment to minimize the chance of injury from an accidental fall.

To help parents and caregivers in providing a safe and fun playground for their children, the NYS Consumer Protection Board (CPB) has joined with the CPSC and Safe Kids USA to provide a safety checklist to all New Yorkers.

You are encouraged to follow these guidelines for playground safety before your children play on the equipment.



**CAREFULLY** supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.



**REMOVE** hood and neck drawstrings from all children's outerwear. Never allow children to wear helmets, necklaces, purses, scarves or clothing with drawstrings while playing on playground equipment.



**NEVER** allow children to attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines, or pet leashes to play equipment; children can get entangled and strangle.



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**CHECK** for spaces that could entrap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs; these spaces should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.



**CHECK** equipment for any defects, sharp points, edges or defective hardware. Remove or repair any faulty hardware like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends, which can be hazardous.



**MAKE** sure platforms and ramps have guardrails to prevent falls.



**REMOVE** tripping hazards, exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.



**MAINTAIN** or service play equipment and surfacing regularly to make sure both are in good condition.



**INSTALL** and maintain a shock-absorbing surface around the play equipment. Use the following chart from the CPSC's Public Playground Safety Handbook to decide which material best meets your needs depending on the height of your playground equipment. Surfacing should be at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure such surface extends, in back and front, and is twice the height of the suspending bar. Always supervise babies and toddlers around loose fill material.

Inches	(of) Loose-Fill Material	(protects to) Fall Height (ft.)
9	Shredded/Recycled rubber	10
9	Sand	4
9	Pea Gravel	5
9	Wood Mulch (non-CCA)	7
9	Wood Chips	10

