

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

Because use and environmental factors as well as materials vary, every playground is different. It is imperative that those responsible for maintenance of the playground understand the maintenance requirements necessary to keep it safe, attractive and to extend its useful life. It is the responsibility of the playground equipment manufacturer to provide instruction as to how the equipment is to be installed and maintained as well as to provide a general guideline as to the frequency of those procedures. It is your responsibility as owner to establish a frequency schedule for each playground and to follow the manufacturers recommended procedures. Landscape Structures' "A Guide to the Frequency of Inspections" will be helpful but not the only criteria in establishing your frequency schedule.

The accompanying inspection report has been computer generated for your specific playground. Keep one set of sheets as your original to make additional copies as needed. Fill in the park name, inspectors name, date, time and inspection schedule (Inspection: 3 of 2007). The inspection report identifies the major components of your structure that can be keyed to the accompanying plan. A column also indicates how often the procedure should be performed (2 indicates that procedure must be performed at every second inspection, 10 every tenth inspection, etc.) and another indicates what your findings were. The procedures manual shows how to perform the procedure and how your findings should be recorded. The last space is also used to identify any action you have taken or that will be taken on or before your next inspection. Once you have become familiar with the maintenance procedures and how to record your findings, the inspection report is the only sheet you will need for your inspection. An example of a completed report is shown on the back of this sheet. If you need additional space to report your findings or action taken, use the back of the same sheet. Once your inspection is complete and all necessary action taken, file your report in the back of this binder.

Protective surfacing throughout the fall zone must be maintained at a thickness or depth sufficient to meet ASTM F1292 standards (Standard Specification for Im-

Introduction

compact Attenuation of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment) at maximum fall heights for equipment installed above the surfacing. If you have not purchased your protective surfacing from Landscape Structures, we have made the assumption that you will be using a loose material such as sand or wood chips as your impact absorbing system. To keep it in conformance with the ASTM standards, this type of material requires substantially more maintenance than a molded synthetic surface system. Organic materials can absorb moisture, compact and decompose all of which will reduce the effectiveness of the system. The inspection report shows expected operations and their frequencies for common materials. Your specific material may vary. The edger retaining this material must not cause a trip hazard - it should be obvious and visible.

So that the same format can be kept for all products within the playground, space has been left on the inspection report where additional products can be added. When adding products, make sure you keep the same type of records as have been suggested herein.

It is important that you recognize the severity of the potential hazard that may be found upon inspection. In some cases, you may have to close the playground until repairs are made. These hazards will most likely be the result of vandalism - assuming proper maintenance has been performed.

The owner has the responsibility to certify/qualify those performing installation and maintenance services. This can be done by attending a Landscape Structures maintenance seminar and/or by attending various industry association meetings on the subject.


If replacement parts are required, they can be ordered from your local Landscape Structures representative or the factory. Part numbers and descriptions can be found on the back of the installation instruction sheets provided in this binder.

**POOR
MAINTENANCE
IS
THE
MAJOR
CAUSE
OF
AT
LEAST
40%
OF
ALL
REPORTED
PLAYGROUND
ACCIDENTS**

Completing The Inspection Report

Indicates the date the play-ground equipment was installed.

Product to be inspected.



landscape
structures
Delano, MN 800-328-0035

Inspection Report

Location Brooks Lake County Park Inspector John Smith
 Date 1-22-2007 Time 2:00 P.M. Frequency of Inspections weekly
 Installation Date 12-14-2006 Installer Bob Johnson of Play Installations

PRODUCT: PlaySense

No Action	
Cleaned	<u>Yes</u>
Repaired	<u>Chipped Paint</u>
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT: Slide

No Action	
Cleaned	<u>Yes</u>
Repaired	<u>Tightened Hardware</u>
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

Indicates how often these products are to be inspected.

Name of person, agency or company that originally installed the equipment.

What you found and what you did about it.

Keep one copy of this form as your original to make copies as necessary.

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

It is estimated that at least 40% of all accidents on public playgrounds could have been prevented if a good preventative maintenance program were in place. A good program establishes a frequency of inspections that are commensurate with the use and environmental factors unique to each play area. Some playgrounds will require daily inspections while others in the same area may require only bi-weekly inspections. The deterioration and/or wear of various play components can be predicted when certain factors are known. On the other hand, vandalism has a major influence on the frequency of inspections but is not as predictable.

The following guide utilizes the most common use and environmental factors that will influence your schedule. Each factor has been weighed as to its importance and influence on the schedule. Local conditions may include other factors, and in some cases, may affect seasonal adjustments to the schedule. Experience is your best guide.

A Guide to the Frequency of Inspections

Enter the factor points in the right hand column that best describes the conditions at the playground.

Use Factors

Factor Points

Vandalism..... _____

High - 10 pts.
Moderate - 5 pts.
Low - 2 pts.

Use..... _____

High - 10 pts.
Moderate - 5 pts.
Low - 2 pts.

Age..... _____

Preschool - 1 pt.
School Age - 3 pts.
All Ages - 2 pts.

Materials

Protective Surfacing..... _____

Loose Material - 18 pts.
Unitary Material - 3 pts.

Material of Major Components..... _____

Painted Steel - 4 pts.
Plastics, Aluminum, Galvanized Steel - 2pts.
Stainless Steel - 0 pts.

Equipment..... _____

Moving: Gyro Twister, PodStomper etc. - 8 pts.
Static: Non-Moving Climbers - 2 pts.
Both - 8 pts.

Enviornmental Factors

Salt Air - Coastal Exposure..... _____

None - 0 pts.
Moderate - 2 pts.
High - 5 pts.

Acid Soils/ Rain..... _____

None - 0 pts.
Moderate - 1 pt.
High - 2 pts.

Sun Exposure..... _____

Low - 1 pt.
Moderate - 2 pts.
High - 4 pts.

Total

Enter Total Points Here..... _____

See back to determine frequency of inspections.

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

Your Total Points

50 or More
40-50

30-40
Below 30

Recommended Frequency of Inspections

Daily Inspections	High Frequency
Weekly Inspections	

BiMonthly Inspections	Low Frequency
Monthly Inspections	

NOTE:

For your program to be effective, the inspectors must be properly trained. Call the equipment manufacturer if you are uncertain as to how a particular component should be inspected and when it should be replaced.

Keep this worksheet with other documentation on this playground.

Date

Person Completing Worksheet

Name/Address of Playground

Recommended Frequency of Inspections:

High Use Period _____

Low Use Period _____

Finishes

TenderTuff-Coating, ie: Decks, Wheels, etc.

1

Cleaning: Apply "Graffiti Cleaner" to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle. Heavy stains may need to be removed mechanically first (scrape with a knife or sandpaper). Seal the affected area with "Clear Guard" by Turtle Wax or "Armor All" by Armor All. Buff the area until the colors blend.

Repairing: TenderTuff Patch Kit required. This patch is recommended to replace worn or vandalized areas of TenderTuff-coating. It is a solvent formula that is air-curing formulated specifically for Landscape Structures. The temperature range for application is between forty and ninety degrees Fahrenheit (40°-90°F). It should be applied on a dry day.

Applying (137784) patch to a PVC coated surface.

- Clean surface, remove surface corrosion of steel with light sanding.
- Trim flat with PVC coated surface using a razor blade or knife.
- Apply enough patch to cover bare metal or gouged surface.
- Spread patch evenly with wet (water) finger, plastic, or knife.
- Patch will dry to touch in approximately 15-30 minutes depending on size of area.
(During this time, it is advisable to keep the area restricted from users.)
- Patch may shrink, apply second coat if needed.
- Clean finger, plastic, or knife with rag or paper towel.

■ **Anodized, ie: Metal Climbers**

1

Cleaning: Apply "Graffiti Cleaner" to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle. Graffiti Cleaner should be used within 24 to 48 hours from the time the surface was affected with graffiti.

Repairing: (Bronze Color) Repair scratches to bronze colored anodized surface, by applying a small amount of bronze colored paint to scratches, using brush and paint provided. Scratches on metal climbers with clear coat anodized finish, do not require repair.

Materials

■ **Permalene Parts, ie: Learning Wall Panels, TuffRiders, etc.**

1

Cleaning: Apply "Graffiti Cleaner" to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle.

Repairing: Scratches can be burnished away with a clean, blunt instrument.

■ **Poly Parts, ie: Slides, TuffTimbers, Tires, Number Discs, etc.**

1

Cleaning: Apply "Graffiti Cleaner" to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle.

Repairing: Scratches can be sanded or burnished away with a clean, blunt instrument. Burnish until they "melt together". More significant repairs are not economically feasible.

■ **Polycarbonate Parts, ie: Windows, Bubbles, etc.**

1

Cleaning: Use glass cleaner spray for cleaning. No abrasives.

Repairing: Sharp corners from scratches can be burnished away with a clean, blunt instrument.

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

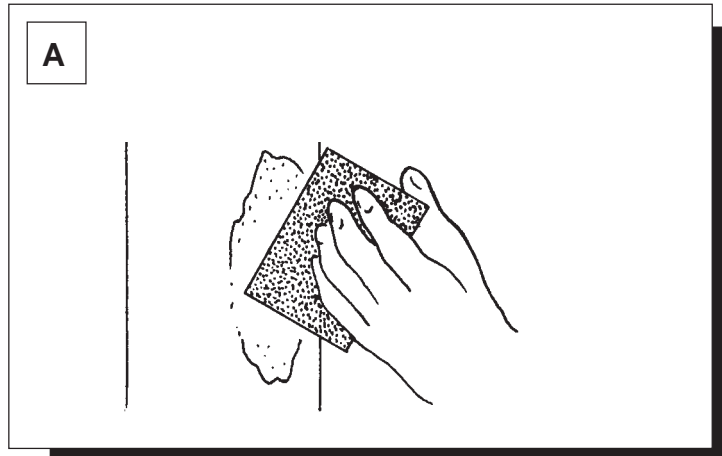
Repair of Powdercoating

Equipment Required:

Maintenance Repair Kit

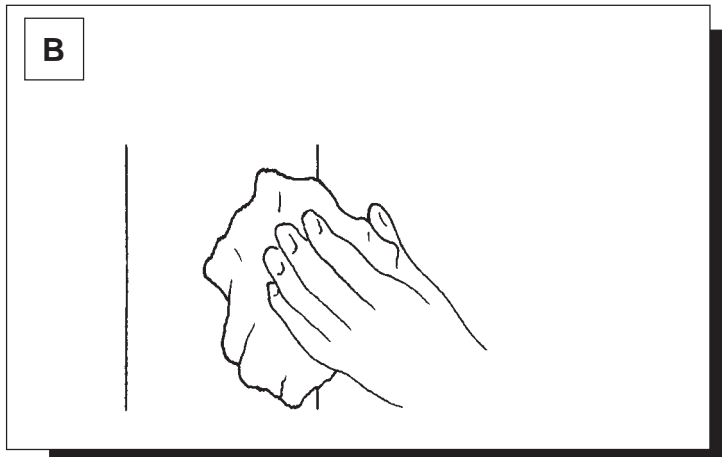
■ A

With emery cloth sand area to be repaired until all rust is removed. Be sure to rough and feather edges of surrounding powder coated area with 400 grit sandpaper until smooth.



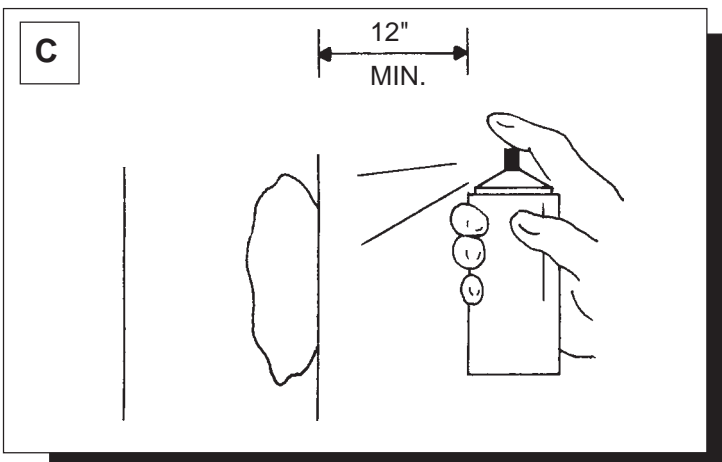
■ B

To help assure best results be sure areas to be painted are clean and dry. This can be accomplished by using a cloth dampened with rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol or water.



■ C

Protect adjacent areas from overspray, if necessary. Apply a minimum of 3 light coats of primer (supplied). Allow to dry 'to the touch' between coats. Lightly sand with 400 grit sandpaper, then wipe with clean cloth. Use same method to apply a minimum of 3 light coats of paint. Be sure to allow areas to dry 3 of 4 hours before use. (Drying time will vary)



NOTE: Be sure to hold spray can 12" - 14" from surface.

Maintenance/Inspection Procedures

Loose Protective Surfacing: Remove foreign materials from the play area. Rake protective surfacing level so it is up to the finished grade marks. Add protective surfacing materials as necessary to maintain the depth and performance required.

Fasteners: Replace if pitted with corrosion or deformed. Tighten attachment fasteners as necessary.

Nut Covers: Replace if cracked, seriously discolored or the cap is missing.

Posts: Replace post if post is severely damaged or pitted with corrosion. Posts must be plumb & keep decks level - adjust if necessary.

Decks: Replace if perforated area is sagged more than 1/2" or if welds are cracked or part is seriously deformed or defaced. PVC coating can be repaired, call Basics Inc. or your local Rep for a repair kit.

Poly Parts such as Slides, Roofs and Crawl Tunnels: Replace if cracked, embrittled or seriously discolored. Joints on slides must be tight between sections - loosen and adjust as necessary.

Horizontal Ladders, Handrails, Loop Arches, Corkscrews and Firepoles: Replace if welds are cracked, deformed, or pitted with corrosion.

Wire Barriers: Replace if welds are cracked, deformed or severely pitted with corrosion.

Chinning Bars, Vertical Ladders, Transfer Handbars & Kick Plates: Replace if deformed, or pitted with corrosion.

Clatterbridge Brackets & Planks: Replace if welds are cracked or parts are seriously deformed. Replace bushings in clatterbridge plank if 50% worn.

Wiggle Ladders: Check chain only if TenderTuff-coating is cracked or worn away. Replace ladder if any link is 50% worn.

Ring Bridges: Replace beam if welds are cracked, deformed or severely pitted with corrosion.

Replace bolt links if worn 50% and "D" rings if deformed or connection is worn to 50% of bushing.

Bubbles: Replace if severely scratched or if cracked 2" or longer. Cap screws should be snug only. (Do not overtighten!)

Permalene Panels: Replace if cracked, embrittled or seriously discolored. Cuts and scratches can be burnished away with a clean blunt instrument.

Talk Tubes: Replace if screen or any welds are cracked, deformed or pitted with corrosion. If talk tubes do not function properly, disconnect plastic tubing at elbows and blow water or sand out of tubing with an air compressor, then reconnect plastic tubing.

Slide supports: Tighten cap screws. Replace if welds are cracked or the unit is deformed or pitted with corrosion.

Concrete Footings: Shovel away protective surfacing and part of subsoil to inspect. Replace footing if it is cracked or not tight around post or subsoil. (May need to wiggle the component to check.)

Labels: Replace if severely scratched or missing.

To determine the owner's obligations and to be in compliance with applicable standards, review the appropriate document(s), listed below, for your location.

United States:

- ASTM F 1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use
- CPSC Pub. No. 325 Handbook for Public Playground Safety

Canada:

- CAN/CSA-Z614 Children's Playspaces and Equipment

Europe:

- EN 1176-7 Playground equipment—Part 7:
Guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance
and operation



Inspection Report

Location _____ Inspector _____

Date _____ Time _____ Frequency of Inspections _____

Installation Date _____ Installer _____

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
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Notes	



Delano, MN 800-328-0035

Inspection Report

Location _____ Inspector _____

Date _____ Time _____ Frequency of Inspections _____

Installation Date _____ Installer _____

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
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Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

PRODUCT:

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	