

# ZEAGER NEWS

## Accessibility "Hot Spots" on your playground

They say no playground surfacing is perfect. Take a loose fill surface such as engineered wood fiber (EWF), for instance, which gives you superior impact resistant qualities but require more maintenance to keep it accessible. Knowing where to look for accessibility "hot spots" and knowing what to do about them can be a big relief to playground owners that choose to be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to accessibility on their playgrounds. Before checking these areas, remember your EWF should be installed over a drainage system and mechanically compacted so it is firm and stable. (see zeager installation guide for details)

**Hot spot # 1** is to make sure you have a designated accessible entrance & route going to the playground equipment. You should have a smooth transition from the exterior surface into the playground surface. The use of ramps can be used to help make that transition (see above). The route should be well maintained firm and level with a minimum width of 60". To minimize maintenance, you could use Zeager Bonded Woodcarpet as an accessible pathway (see picture on left). **Hot spot # 2** is checking for slope measurements on the entry route and other access routes around the play equipment that connect all entry and exit points. These routes should be within 6% or 1:16 running slope and within 2% or 1:48 cross slope and must be firm & stable. You can measure this with a simple angle finder tool and a piece of angle iron that can be purchased at a local hardware store.



**Hot Spot #1:** Designated accessible entrance & 60" w route



Accessible pathway made of bonded Woodcarpet®



**Hot spot #2**  
Measure slope %



**Hot spot #3**  
48"x30" Clear floor space

Hot spot # 3 is to check the entry & exit points of your equipment to make sure there is a firm & stable 48"x30" clear floor space to provide access for a person with a disability. Zeager wear mats in these locations will help provide this necessary space. That brings up our next **Hot spot # 4-** no changes in level that are greater than 1/2". This means there should be a relatively smooth transition between any two surfaces such as a concrete edge and the surface at the entrance of the play area or at the edge of a wear mat and the surrounding surface. These areas are easily fixed by raking in some new EWF.

Finally, remember that at least 50 % of your playground equipment needs to be on an accessible route and depending on how many elevated play components you have, you need to have a certain number of ground components accessible too. The U.S Access Board has a chart to help you determine this. So be creative and use a combination of compacted Woodcarpet,

Woodcarpet wear mats, bonded Woodcarpet, Recgrass or Recmat tiles to create your accessible surface. Zeager can help you ! Call one of our experienced representatives at 1-800-346-8524 or email: [sales@zeager.com](mailto:sales@zeager.com).



**Hot spot #4-**  
No changes in level over 1/2"



Any slope or change in level issues are an easy fix !