



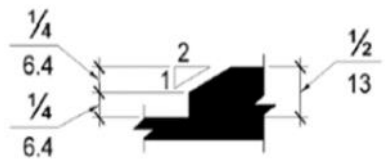
Tech Corner with Jeff

A DA guidelines call for accessible surfacing for public play areas. What all does this include? In the next few issues of 'Tech Corner with Jeff' we're going to discuss some of the aspects of an accessible surface and how Zeager can help.



Entry/Exit of the play area:

Before anything we need to be sure the person with a disability is able to enter into or exit from the play area. For unitary surfaces like poured rubber, tiles or turf this can be an easier task than with a loose fill product like engineered wood fiber (EWF), sand, gravel or loose rubber. Because loose fill products tend to scatter or decay, as the surface drops below the surrounding hard surface more than 1/4", a problem occurs when a person with a mobile device tries to traverse into or from the loose surface because of the abrupt change in level.



One of the fixes is to install a concrete ramp. This can take some effort to form up the ramp, pour the concrete and wait for curing. This could also be done with a poured rubber



surface too, but again, this requires special tools, trained installation crews and time.



One of Zeager's customers, Lyon's Recreation, LLC of Stratford, NJ took advantage of a new product Zeager offers that makes quick work of giving access to a playground to limit maintenance and maintain access into a playground when using a loose-fill surfacing like engineered wood fiber. The product is a preformed ramp assembly with tapered wings made from light weight foam and coated with a durable coating for long lasting protection. Here's a step by step look at the installation process.





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First, clear out the area down to a firm stable sub-base. Be sure to compact the stone or soil to make sure it's even and that the ramp will sit flush on the sub-base.



Next, we're going to set the ramp into place, making sure it sits flush on the ground. A can of spray foam comes with the kit to fill in any gaps between the ramp and the concrete border to minimize movement and prevent debris getting between the ramp and the outer edge.

Once you've set the ramp, pre-drill and screw aluminum threshold into the concrete edge with Tapcon® screws provided. Be sure to use a hammer drill to drill your holes just slightly under the screw size. Normally 3/16" hole does the trick.



Once the threshold is mounted, anchor the base with the galvanized stakes that come with the ramp kit. There are angled brackets with various holes along the sides to drive the stakes down into the subsoil to anchor the base.

After that, simply backfill the wood fiber over the ramp base and the wings and WOW! You have an accessible ramp with an 8% slope to provide access into your play area in a matter of a couple hours! Ask your Zeager representative for more details or visit us at www.zeager.com.

