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Zeager Maintenance Recommendations For Playground Surface Products

Daily

1. Visually inspect the entire playground area. Remove all foreign material (i.e. trash, tree branches, etc.). [Reference ASTM F1487, Section 13.2.2]

Weekly

1. Rake and tamp the WoodCarpet® as necessary to keep the surface level and the depth sufficient throughout the play area especially between entrance and exits of equipment where more maintenance may be required. Installing wear mats in these areas will reduce maintenance. ADA requires a level, firm surface where access is required. [Reference ASTM F1487, Section 13.2.1]
2. Look for abrupt changes in level at the accessible entrance to the play area. For in ground installation simply add EWF as necessary to keep a smooth transition or install ADA compliant ramp. For above ground, install a ramp into the play area and keep surfacing level sufficient for smooth transition. Also check areas such as the transition between wear mats and the surrounding surface.

Monthly

1. In the highest use areas, dig down to the subsurface or drain system and measure the depth of WoodCarpet® to ensure that the depth is sufficient for the fall height of the structure. [Reference ASTM F1487, Section 13.2.1 and Zeager's product specifications] All equipment footers should be covered with at least 12" of WoodCarpet®. Maintain at least 12" of WoodCarpet and use wear mats in all high traffic areas. The use of markings on the play structure supports or on the containment border is also recommended as a means to ensure sufficient depth. Top off with additional WoodCarpet® as needed. Wetting and tamping the surface will speed up the compaction process & keep the surface firm & stable.
2. The WoodCarpet® surface must be maintained at a specific distance below some components (i.e. slide exits, swing seats, merry go rounds, transfer stations, etc.). [Reference ASTM F1487- (8.5.5.3 as example)].
3. Check and ensure sufficient depth of WoodCarpet® under each TuffMat® surface mat. Cutting some of the ties is necessary to flip the mat up to check surface below. To top off, cut the plastic cable ties on three sides of the mat, turn the mat over and add WoodCarpet® to the desired depth. Turn the mat back over and dig a channel around the 3 edges of the mat, down to the base of the WoodCarpet®. Use new plastic cable ties to reattach the mat to the anchors. Refill the channel and ensure mat edges are covered with WoodCarpet® so as not to create a trip hazard. See instructional video at: zeager.com/products/recreation/tuffmat-surface-mat/
4. Check for loose TuffMat® anchors. Secure any loose mats and ensure that TuffMat edges are sloped down and covered with WoodCarpet® so as not to create a trip hazard and to maintain accessibility.
5. Visually inspect each TuffMat® for holes, tears, or vandalism. Tears could be a trip hazard. If the mat contains any hazards, remove the mat and replace it with a new mat. Nylon ties at anchor points may break due to exposure. Replace as needed.
6. Check the performance of the drain system by ensuring that water is flowing from a drain system outflow pipe immediately after rain. Also, make sure there is no standing water on the playground surface. For play areas using WoodCarpet®, another option is to dig down to the base of the WoodCarpet® to check for standing water. The water level should be below the base of the WoodCarpet® within 30 minutes after the rain ceases. Poor drainage will decrease life expectancy and resiliency during colder temperatures.

Notes

1. WoodCarpet® appearance and longevity will be enhanced by the removal of weeds or periodic application of an approved weed inhibitor. Application should be done by a certified pesticide applicator and be suitable for human contact. When mowing around the play area, mow so that grass and leaves are blown away from the playground.
2. During a dry season, it may be necessary to wet the surface of the WoodCarpet® with water. When tested, fresh WoodCarpet® was found to be fire resistant because it is made from fresh wood, which has sufficient moisture content to resist flammability. An alternative to periodically applying water would be to apply a fire retardant. Ensure that the retardant is designed to be used on fresh wood and that it is safe for human contact.
3. WoodCarpet® contains fresh wood. Fresh wood contains tannins, which are a natural preservative found in living plants and trees that rain will eventually wash out of the WoodCarpet® into the drain system. This dark brown residue is externally harmless to humans and should gradually diminish.
4. During freezing conditions, surface materials will naturally be less resilient, particularly with poor drainage. Restrict use of the area accordingly.
5. These recommendations are based on average climate and playground use conditions. Unique climate conditions and high use sites may require more frequent maintenance.
6. Due to weather conditions, poor drainage, too much shade, or a combination thereof, bacteria may rapidly colonize, which may lead to fungus growth on the WoodCarpet®. If fungus becomes visible, simply scoop out and dispose of the fungus. Apply a mixture of one part liquid laundry detergent to three parts water to the area with a pump sprayer, or spread lime on the surface and lightly rake into the area.
7. For more information, contact a Zeager representative.

Warning: WoodCarpet can expose you to wood dust, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer. For more information, go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

WARNING: TuffMat can expose you to chemicals including - Vinyl chloride monomer; Carbon black; Ethyl acrylate; Titanium dioxide; Rutile (TiO₂); 1,2-benzendikarboxylsyra, di-C8-10-alkyl ester, grenad; Nickel antimony yellow rutile (C.I. Pigment Yellow 53); Quartz; which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or Diisodecyl phthalate; which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.