

Accessibility Standards for Playgrounds

It is important to be aware of accessibility standards and to install and maintain a playground surface that meets those standards. For details on accessibility standards enforced by the Department of Justice in the United States, click this link <https://www.access-board.gov/ada/#ada-1008>. For details on accessibility standards in Canada, click this link <https://www.csagroup.org/store/product/CSA%20Z614:20/>. WoodCarpet engineered wood fiber provides a safe, economical playground surface that meets fall safety standards as well as accessibility standards provided it is installed and maintained properly. Here is a brief look at some of the key accessibility requirements for playground surfaces.

The most basic requirement is that the play surface must be firm, stable and slip resistant. Testing the surface in accordance with ASTM F1951 determines whether the surface is firm and stable. ASTM F1951 test results are available for WoodCarpet.


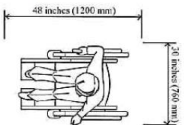
Another requirement to be aware of is that the surface should have no gaps greater than 1/2" or changes in level greater than 1/2". Changes in level greater than 1/4" must be beveled. This includes the play area entrance and exit. Please keep this in mind when designing entrances into your play areas. Accessible ramps leading into and out of the play area can help meet this requirement and allow the WoodCarpet level to fluctuate while still providing a smooth transition to and from the play area.



Other items required are a 30"x48" ground space at accessible equipment, an accessible route 60" wide to equipment entrance and exit points, and a 60" turning space. Maintain these ground spaces, accessible routes, and turning spaces by keeping them compacted and level (1:16 max running slope and 1:48 max cross slope or 1:50 in Canada).

Clear Floor or Ground Space

- 30 in. x 48 in. min.
- Discretionary placement
- Applies to ground-level & elevated components accessed by ramp



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Accessible Routes

- Route designed to provide access for individuals with disabilities
- Connects all entry and exit points of accessible play components



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Zeager TuffMat wear mats can help keep your surface level. They can be particularly helpful for high wear areas and to maintain level ground spaces at accessible equipment.



Remember, an accessible playground surface meets these requirements:

- Firm, stable and slip resistant (meets ASTM F1951).
- Provides adequate fall protection (meets ASTM F1292).
- No gaps greater than 1/2".
- No changes in level greater than 1/2". Changes greater than 1/4" must be beveled.
- 30"x48" ground space at accessible equipment.
- Access route 60" wide, 1:16 max running slope, 1:48 max cross slope (1:50 in Canada).
- A 60" turning space.

To meet accessibility standards for play areas, it is important to wet and mechanically compact WoodCarpet and to order sufficient WoodCarpet for such compaction. In the past, it was standard procedure to order an additional 35% to allow for natural compaction, which typically occurred within 2-6 weeks of installation. However, waiting for compaction to occur is no longer acceptable. For an accessible surface, WoodCarpet should be mechanically compacted, which is more effective. Because it is more effective, more material is required. Instead of ordering an additional 35% more material, ordering an additional 50% is now recommended to ensure sufficient material for mechanical compaction.





MULTIPLIERS FOR MECHANICAL COMPACTION

DEPTH NEEDED AFTER COMPACTION	MULTIPLIER (SQUARE FEET x MULTIPLIER = CUBIC YARDS NEEDED)	EXAMPLE OF CUBIC YARDS NEEDED FOR 2000 SQUARE FEET MECHANICALLY COMPACTED
16 inches	0.074	148
14 inches	0.065	130
12 inches	0.056	112
11 inches	0.051	102
10 inches	0.047	94
9 inches	0.042	84
8 inches	0.037	74
7 inches	0.033	66
6 inches	0.028	56
5 inches	0.024	48
4 inches	0.019	38
3 inches	0.014	28

OLD MULTIPLIERS FOR NATURAL COMPACTION

DEPTH NEEDED AFTER COMPACTION	MULTIPLIER (SQUARE FEET x MULTIPLIER = CUBIC YARDS NEEDED)	EXAMPLE OF CUBIC YARDS NEEDED FOR 2000 SQUARE FEET NATURALLY COMPACTED
16 inches	0.067	134
14 inches	0.059	118
12 inches	0.050	100
11 inches	0.046	92
10 inches	0.042	84
9 inches	0.038	76
8 inches	0.034	68
7 inches	0.030	60
6 inches	0.025	50
5 inches	0.021	42
4 inches	0.017	34
3 inches	0.013	26