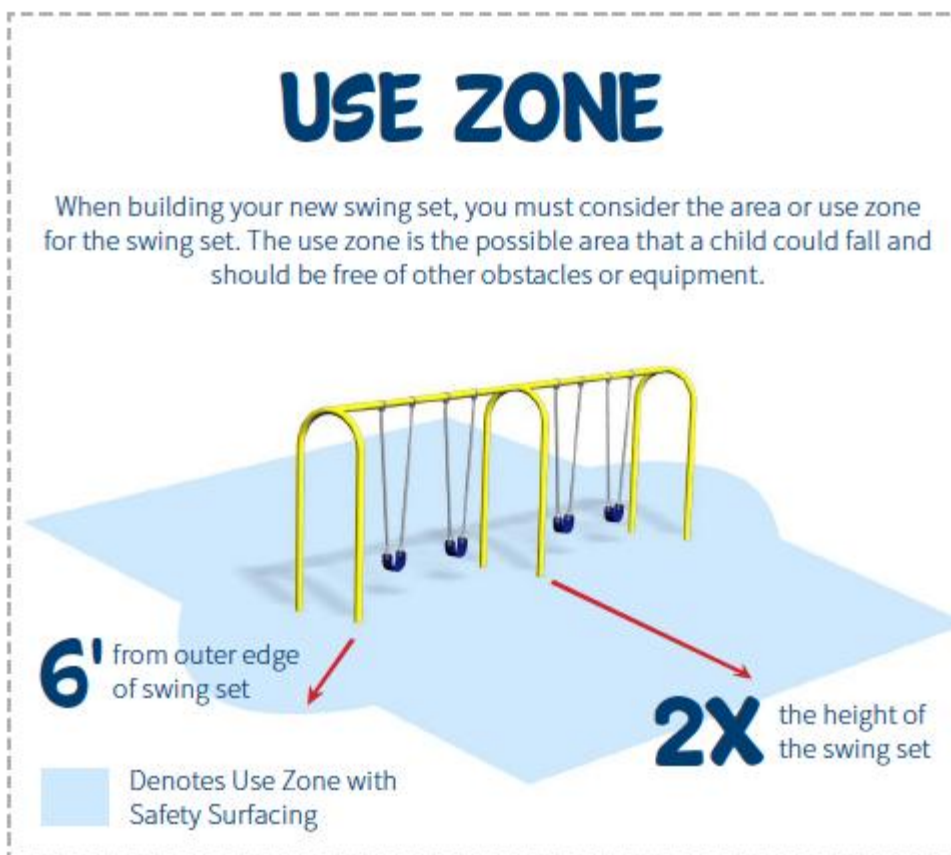


Playground safety plays an important role in supporting children's physical development and well-being. By staying informed and mindful of safety, we can help minimize preventable injuries.

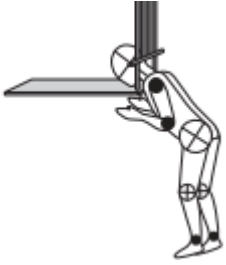
### Safety Guidelines:

- Maintain active supervision – keep your eyes on the child(ren) and stay close by in case the child(ren) needs assistance.
- Bring a first aid kit. Keep it out of the reach of children.
- Teach children how to use playground equipment properly.
- Watch the outdoor conditions. No outdoor play for temperature or heat index over 90 degrees F, watch for storms, watch air quality such as for smoke [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)
- Check the surfacing and surroundings before children use it. Look for potential hazards such as broken glass, cigarette/vaping/nicotine waste, animal waste, poisonous/thorny plants, etc.
- Any equipment over 18 inches in height is recommended to be placed over protective surfaces (such as loose fill material, rubber mats, etc.). Grass or dirt is not considered to be protective.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to anchor swing sets and climbing structures. Check the stability regularly.
- Surfaces under and around equipment should consist of 12 inches deep of loose fill material (sand, woodchips, pea gravel, mulch) or rubber mats that meet ASTM standards as playground surfacing.
- Protective surfaces should extend at least 6 feet in all directions from the playground equipment to provide a fall/use zone. For swings, the fall/use zone is recommended to be 2 times the height of the swing's pivot point in front and behind the swing.



- Play structures more than 30 inches tall should be spaced at least 6 feet from other pieces of equipment and have guardrails to prevent falls.

- Spaces between 3.5-9 inches are head entrapment hazards.



- Inspect equipment regularly. Look for protruding bolts, loose/missing hardware, sharp edges or points on all equipment.



- Check chains on swings to make sure they are not kinked to prevent pinching. If the vinyl coating on the chains is cracked, this can also cause pinching. Make sure all connectors are closed/secured. Rust and friction affect the integrity of the swing chain links and connectors, so watch closely for wear.
- Watch for tripping hazards like tree roots, rocks and exposed concrete footings.
- Check equipment before use to make sure it is not wet, hot, icy or covered with loose-fill surfacing (wood chips, pea gravel, etc.).
- Wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Shoes that are rubber soled, secured with ties/straps and cover toes are recommended to prevent tripping/slipping. Remove necklaces/scarves, clothes with drawstrings, etc., as they can be strangulation hazards.
- Remove helmets when not on wheeled equipment. They should never be worn when playing on playground equipment.
- Never attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines or pet leashes to playground equipment. If the rope is part of the equipment structure (such as for a climbing wall), it should be attached at both ends so it cannot be a strangulation hazard. The rope integrity should also be checked regularly for fraying/separating.



- Regarding height of equipment, one foot of height per age of child is recommended. For example, children 2 years old should play on equipment no more than 2 feet high. The maximum height of equipment is 5 feet for children 4 years old and under and 7 feet for children 5 years old and over.
- For wood equipment, watch for cracks, splits and splinters, and how the wood is treated.
- Check plastic playground equipment (ex. Little Tikes/Step2) for cracks/breaks and to make sure the parts are connected securely. Reposition the equipment before use if needed to provide a fall/use zone.



- Don't assume public playgrounds are safe and maintained. Most public playgrounds are designed for 5-12 year olds. Report concerns regarding unsafe conditions or equipment to the City or Park & Recreation Department.

For safety manuals for public playgrounds and home playgrounds visit: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)