



FROZEN PLAYGROUND SURFACES

Frost, snow and ice on playgrounds or equipment increase the risk of serious injury.

Falls are the most common source of playground injury to children and may result in serious injury or death, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) [Public Playground Safety Handbook](#), (December 29, 2015).

Playground surface materials that become frozen, icy or snow covered do not provide adequate protection from falls, especially from an elevated surface.

Schools should not allow use of playground equipment during freezing weather, or when snow or ice is on the ground below playground equipment.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Thoroughly inspect the playground surfacing material before allowing playground use. The surfacing under and around playground equipment is one of the most important factors in reducing the likelihood of life-threatening head injuries.
- During freezing weather, playground surfacing materials may not provide adequate shock absorption to prevent serious injuries from falls.
- Icy handrails, grips, and stairs may become very slippery, increasing the risk of slips and falls.
- Snow is not an acceptable protective surfacing material to mitigate a fall. It can ice over and compact surprisingly fast.
- Follow the surfacing manufacturer's recommendations for testing playground surfacing materials. The CPSC Playground Safety Handbook recommends playgrounds meet the surfacing requirements of [ASTM F1292](#)
- Keep maintenance records including repairs, inspections, checklists used, and testing of surfacing materials.
- Place appropriate signs at school playgrounds to alert the playground monitor of hazards and closures.
- Consult the [CPSC Playground Safety Handbook](#) Section 2.4, Surfacing, for more information.

Resources:

[CPSC public-playground-safety-checklist](#)