

Maintenance for NW Playfibre to meet ADA Requirements

Maintenance:

Maintaining your NW Play Fibre (also referred to as Engineered Wood Fiber EWF) surface is critical to keeping your surfacing ADA compliant. The frequency of the maintenance information below should be conducted in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

1. Visually inspect the entire playground area. Remove all foreign material (i.e. trash, tree branches, etc.).
2. Rake the NW Play Fibre to keep the surface level and the thickness to the original recommended depth. A level surface is necessary for wheelchair access and compliance with ADA requirements. Wear mats can reduce or eliminate the need to rake the EWF in high traffic areas such as swings and slide exits. Be sure the transition between the wear mats and the NW Play Fibre is level.
3. At accessible entrances onto the playground surface, ensure that the surface material, accessible route or the top of the access ramp is within ¼" of the top of the play area border. An ADA compliant access ramp into the play area will help reduce maintenance in this area.
4. In the highest use areas and around equipment footers, dig down to the subsurface or drain system and measure the depth of the NW Play Fibre. Ensure that the depth is sufficient for the fall height of the structure or at the manufacturer's original recommended depth, whichever one is greater. Add NW Play Fibre as necessary, level, wet and compact. The use of markings on the play structure supports or on the containment barriers is also recommended as a means to ensure depth of surface is kept to original thickness.
5. Visually inspect all wear mats for tears, cracks and general wear. Add NW Play Fibre around the wear mat to ensure a smooth transition from wear mat to surface. Turn wear mats over periodically and add EWF beneath them to bring wear mats up to original grade.
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. It is important to have a functioning drainage system to improve NW Play Fibre life expectancy and the resilience of the surfacing.

Note: This is a technical document and in no way is an endorsement for any particular surfacing. It is intended to assist the playground owner in making their playground a well-maintained and accessible area. It does not imply that an injury cannot occur. For more information about the IPEMA certification program, go to www.ipema.org.