



INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF HUGHES PLAYGROUND MULCH

Installing Hughes Playground Mulch for safety surfacing:

Before installing wood mulch to cushion a playground surface, a system for containing the material must be in place. For example, an excavated pit or retaining wall around the perimeter of the playground will work well for enclosing the mulch. Creating this type of barrier will decrease loss of product due to regular use (e.g. displacement by children or wind) and from washing away easily during rain. In addition, Hughes Playground Mulch should *never* be installed over hard surfaces such as concrete or asphalt.

One of the most important factors in creating a safe playground surface is to install Hughes Playground Mulch at an adequate depth. Hughes Playground Mulch has been tested (by TUV SUD America Inc., phone number (734) 455-4841) at a compaction depth of twelve inches and been proven safe for a fall from playground equipment up to twelve feet. When spreading mulch around playground equipment our product should be spread as evenly as possible. After spreading mulch over the entire play area, inspections should be made to ensure that no spaces exist with less than 14-16 inches of Hughes Playground Mulch. Generally, the entire playground surface should give some resistance while walking on it. However, if you believe that a particular area may not be sufficiently covered, measure the depth to make sure that the mulch is a minimum of 14 inches.

Hughes Playground Mulch should be spread at the required depth in all fall zones throughout the play area. Fall zones around play equipment are determined by the type of apparatus. Slides have a fall zone of four feet plus the height of the slide (i.e. 14-16 inches of Hughes Playground Mulch in the area of 4+x' from the exit of the slide). Swings have a fall zone of twice the height of the pivot (i.e. if a swing set is 12' tall, spread 14-16 of mulch over 24 feet in front and behind the set). In general, all other equipment requires a fall zone of at least six feet (covered in mulch) in all directions.

Maintenance of Hughes Playground Mulch on the playground:

Hughes Playground Mulch that is in high-use areas may become compressed more quickly than in areas with less traffic. To reduce this rake or till the Hughes Playground Mulch weekly, or as needed, in order to reduce compaction. Also, high use areas may be subjected to increased trash accumulation. Discarded items can be potential hazards, contributing to injuries such as punctures or cuts. Regular inspection, raking and cleaning of the area will keep the Hughes Playground Mulch free of dangerous materials and enable it to perform its protective duty.

Since Hughes Playground Mulch is an organic product, it is subject to becoming crushed after high usage and decomposing. Therefore, additional installation of Hughes Playground Mulch may be

needed yearly or every six months. Since wood mulch is a loose material that provides good drainage, it is not necessary to install an elaborate drainage system around the play area. However, the area should not be designed as to allow pooling of excess water. While Hughes Playground Mulch will usually last well on sloped terrain, extreme rain may cause the loss of some material and necessitate the installation of additional material.