

HOW TO MEASURE FOR THE DEPTH OF PLAYGROUND SURFACE



Measure the highest point a child can climb to (critical height). For swings, the Critical Height is measured from the pivot point where the swing is suspended down to the ground. For elevated structures with guard rails, the Critical Height is measured from the top of the guard rail down to the ground. The highest accessible part for platforms with protective barriers is the deck. For all other structures, the Critical Height is measured from the highest point of the structure down to the ground.

Loose-Fill Playground Surfacing Material: Depth Needed

| Height of Equipment | Type and Minimum Uncompressed (Not Packed Down) Depth at Point of Impact (More Must Be Installed to Account for Scatter) |
|---------------------|--|
| 5 feet | 6 inches of fine sand 6 inches of coarse sand 6 inches of medium gravel |
| 6 feet | 6 inches of double shredded bark mulch 6 inches of uniform wood chips 6 inches of fine gravel |

Adapted from Model Child Health Policies. 5th Edition, 2014, American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Chapter.