

**What the regulations say about playground surfaces**

**Type I centers and Type II licensed homes** (922 KAR 2:120)

A protective surface shall be provided for outdoor play equipment used to: climb; swing, and slide; and have a fall zone equal to the height of the equipment [Sec 4 (19)].

 “Protective surface” means loose surfacing material not installed over concrete which includes the following [Sec 1 (21)]:

 Wood mulch;

 Double shredded bark mulch;

 Uniform wood chips;

 Fine sand;

 Coarse sand;

 Pea gravel, except for areas used by children under three (3) years of age;

 Certified shock absorbing resilient material; or

 Other material approved by the cabinet or designee.

 Guidelines for the depth of the protective surface are available in the [Public Playground Safety Handbook](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf)

 This U.S. Product Safety Commission website also has additional information regarding playground safety.

See Supplemental Handouts: *Playground Supervision* and *Playground Safety.*

**Certified family child care homes** (922 KAR 2:100)

 An outdoor play area shall be free of danger or risk [Sec 10 (13)].

 Outdoor stationery play equipment shall be securely anchored, safe, and developmentally appropriate [Sec 10 (15)].

 Visit the U.S. Product Safety Commission for [additional information regarding playground safety](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf)