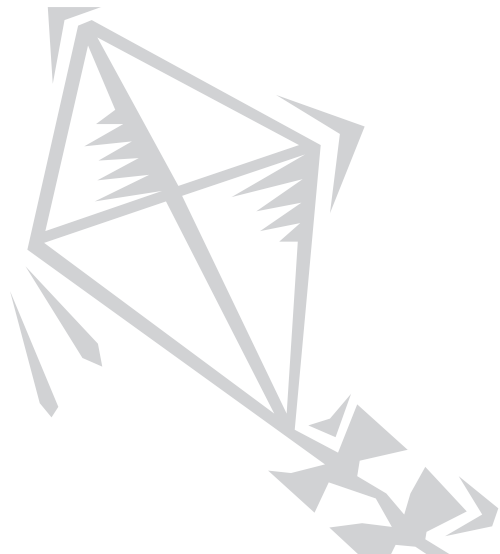


# FACTS

Each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries associated with playground equipment.

Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground. Many backyard playsets are placed on dirt or grass—surfaces that do not adequately protect children when they fall.

**MAKE YOUR  
BACKYARD  
PLAYGROUND  
A SAFE PLACE  
TO PLAY!**



Brought to you by:

**U.S. Consumer Product  
Safety Commission**



For more information on playground safety, visit the CPSC website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) to check out the *Handbook for Public Playground Safety* and other publications. Or, call the toll-free CPSC Hotline at 1-800-638-2772.



KaBOOM! is the national nonprofit organization committed to building safe playgrounds for America's children through partnership with individuals, community groups and businesses. For more information, visit the KaBOOM! web site at [www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org) or call 1-202-659-0215.

7-01/50M



NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

800.472.2286

**IS YOUR  
HOME  
PLAYGROUND  
A SAFE  
PLACE TO  
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From the  
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and



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# HOME PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

Use this simple checklist to help make sure your home playground is a safe place to play.

- 1** Install and maintain a **shock-absorbing surface** around the play equipment. Use at least 9 inches of wood chips, mulch, or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7 feet high. If sand or pea gravel is used, install at least a 9-inch layer for play equipment up to 5 feet high. Or, use surfacing mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
- 2** Install protective **surfacing** at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- 3** **Never attach**—or allow children to attach—**ropes**, jump ropes, clotheslines, or pet leashes to play equipment; children can strangle on these.
- 4** Check for **hardware**, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends, which can be hazardous.
- 5** Check for **spaces** that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs; these spaces should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- 6** Make sure platforms and ramps have **guardrails** to prevent falls.
- 7** Check for **sharp points** or edges in equipment.
- 8** Remove **tripping hazards**, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- 9** Regularly **check play equipment and surfacing** to make sure both are in good condition.
- 10** Carefully **supervise children** on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

