

Safety Surfacing Comparisons

Each year, over 200,000 children are seriously injured on a playground. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that nearly 80% of these injuries are from falls directly to the surfacing below, which makes choosing the right surfacing extremely important.

At Children's Specialties, one of our core standards is Education. We believe the best information allows our customers to make the most informed and best decisions. One of the most common questions we hear is, "Which surfacing is the best?" In order to help you determine some of the features and benefits of each surfacing type, we have compiled the below list of the different types of surfacing. We would be pleased to discuss your project with you if you have any questions to help you choose the right option for your new area. Please call one of our experts today!

Sand / Gravel	Engineered Wood Fiber/Chips	Rubber Nuggets	Rubber Tiles	Poured in Place Rubber
CPSC Compliant (limited)	CPSC Compliant	CPSC Compliant	CPSC Compliant	CPSC Compliant
Non-ADA Compliant	ADA Compliant	ADA Compliant	ADA Compliant	ADA Compliant
Uneven, inconsistent shock absorbing capabilities even at 12" depth.	Shock absorbing capabilities most effective when new or freshly fluffed.	Shock absorbing capabilities can be inconsistent depending on depth.	Consistent shock absorbing capabilities.	Consistent shock absorbing capabilities.
Can be displaced by use or water or be removed by children	Can be displaced by use or water or be removed by children	Can be displaced by use or water or be removed by children	No loose objects or particles	No loose objects or particles
Uneven surfaces may cause trip hazards	Uneven surfaces may cause trip hazards	Uneven surfaces may cause trip hazards	Seams and gaps may cause trip hazards	No seams or trip hazards
Non-slip surfacing	Non-slip surfacing	Non-slip surfacing	Can be slippery when wet	Non-slip surfacing
Moderate maintenance to keep contained and required depth	Moderate maintenance to keep contained and required depth	Moderate maintenance to keep contained and required depth	Low Maintenance. No filling or containment.	Low Maintenance. No filling or containment.
Durable	Decomposes over time	Durable	Durable	Durable
Absorbs water in area / Can freeze	Absorbs water in area / Can freeze	Absorbs water in area / Can freeze	Porous / Puddling may form / Dries quickly	Porous / Puddling minimal / Dries quickly
Can conceal foreign objects	Can conceal foreign objects	Can conceal foreign objects	No foreign objects	No foreign objects