



Safety Guidance

Maintenance of Wooden Equipment & Resources

Outdoor equipment and resources have been selected for their suitability and durability under suitable weather conditions and sensible management. The nature of outdoor play is such that resources may have a shorter life span and so will need to be replaced more frequently.

We strongly recommend that risk assessments are completed for all outdoor equipment and resources, in line with the setting/school's procedures.

In addition, these regular checks will help to ensure the longevity of your resources and help to ensure they are safe for children to use:

- The outdoor space is free from loose debris, trip hazards, litter and other potential obstacles
- Large equipment is sited away from walls, trees and other landscape features
- The spacing of large equipment is sufficient to allow adequate room for children to safely move over, around, or through it
- All equipment is free from splinters, and there are no broken or loose parts, rust, or sharp edges
- Sand/gravel/soil areas are clean and free from debris, litter and other contaminants
- Surfaces are clear of any leaves, dirt, ice or snow that might make them slippery

Wood Treatments

All our wooden products are pressure-treated to help protect against rot and fungal decay. This deep treatment gives your timber a strong layer of protection. As wood weathers it will change colour naturally. We recommend applying a clear decking oil or a similar timber treatment once a year, to keep features such as mud kitchens, climbing equipment, or planters in good condition. Apply the oil in dry weather, using a brush or cloth, and always follow the product instructions.

Siting

Place your equipment on a well-drained surface and avoid letting water pool on horizontal surfaces for long periods of time will help reduce any moisture-related wear.

Cleaning

A build-up of wet leaves, algae and other can make wooden equipment slippery. Regularly brush with a stiff broom and hose with water to clean.

Minor Cracks

Wood constantly expands and contracts with changes in temperature and moisture content and over time, this can lead to minor cracking. In most cases, cracking is a normal feature of wood, and they will not affect the strength or lifespan of wooden equipment if the previous treatment advice is followed.

Splinters

Minor cracking and general use can create splinters. Remove any loose pieces before rubbing the area smooth with sandpaper.



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