



PLAYGROUNDS WITH PURPOSE

Playground Maintenance & Repairs

Congratulations — you've chosen a high-quality Kidzspace playground that, with proper maintenance, will withstand the test of time and years of use. As the owner, you're responsible for maintaining the playground and its surroundings so every play structure stays safe. This guide covers everything you need to know: cleaning, routine maintenance, repairs, and a full inspection timetable.

Cleaning

A clean playground is a safe playground. Remove litter, debris and food to prevent injuries and control pests, and keep adjacent areas and walkways clean and accessible. Any damaged or broken equipment must be removed from use immediately and kept out of commission until repaired — this protects the safety and functional reliability of the product. We recommend high-usage or older equipment be inspected multiple times a week.

Displaced under-surfacing such as sand or mulch can be both a hazard and a source of wear if trodden underfoot for long periods. Sand is especially abrasive, so minimise its contact with equipment where possible.

How often you need to clean depends on the location, surrounding environment and the playground's materials — in most cases, cleaning is only needed for high-use playgrounds. It's straightforward: use high-pressure water and a cloth or soft sponge to wipe the equipment down. Detergent generally isn't necessary unless removing graffiti or sticky substances like bubblegum.

Washing frequency may need to increase in coastal areas, where salty sea spray accelerates corrosion, and in regions with infrequent rainfall, where dust and deposits can build up. Slides are often scuffed by rubber from shoes — this comes off with a bit of elbow grease, and a car polish can help revitalise fibreglass surfaces.

Maintenance

Over time, heavy use can loosen bolts and fasteners, leaving a play structure wobbly or unstable. Loose components can create dangerous pinch, crush or shear points, so all nuts, bolts, fasteners and screws must be checked periodically. Any sign of cracking should be addressed immediately to prevent rust or sharp protrusions — dealing with rust early reduces both safety risk and the cost of repairs. Follow the maintenance timetable opposite for weekly, scheduled and annual inspections.

Repairs

Occasionally, parts need replacing due to breakage or wear. Replace them promptly to avoid unsafe conditions, following the maintenance manual and original installation instructions. Your Kidzspace sales consultant can supply replacement parts and copies of installation instructions. If broken equipment can't be repaired immediately, restrict access to that part of the structure — or the whole structure, if necessary — until it's fixed.

It's the ongoing duty of any playground owner and operator to maintain a safe, compliant play space in line with Australian Standards, which means regular inspection and assessment to catch safety hazards and compliance issues early. AS 4685 sets out several inspection types — some can be carried out by your own maintenance staff, others require an experienced, competent auditor (an L3 safety inspector). Keep a written record of any faults, and engage an L3 inspector for your periodic Compliance Audit & Safety Assessment.

Maintenance Timetable

An example schedule for inspecting and maintaining playground equipment and surfacing materials.

DAILY / WEEKLY

Remove loose objects from the playspace — small chairs, buckets, ropes, hoses etc.

Remove litter, glass, sharps and any unhygienic matter; clean surfacing as required

Remove nesting insects and spiders

Remove poisonous plants and weeds (e.g. fungi)

Remove graffiti

Rake and redistribute loose-fill playground surfacing

Close off broken or vandalised equipment until replacement parts are available and fitted

MONTHLY / QUARTERLY

Ensure playground surfacing is free of damage and trip hazards

Ensure foundations and structures are stable; check smooth operation of moving parts, grease/oil as required

Monitor wear and tear on chains, cabling and connectors; replace as required

Monitor condition of timber items (splitting, splintering); treat as required for smooth surfaces

Remove nesting insects and spiders

Clean equipment to remove stains, mould and dirt; make hygienic

Clear access paths of vegetation; check for protrusions; check loose-fill depth is adequate

ANNUALLY

Ensure playground surfacing is free of surface wear, correct depth (loose-fill), sub-grade deterioration, damage and trip hazards

Treat surface rust on metal components — clean, rasp back, treat with rust inhibitor, repaint as required

Touch up / refinish painted surfaces as required, including highlighting for visual awareness at step edges

Replace failed plantings as required

Mulch all garden beds

Top up or replace sand in sandpits if required

3yr

Every 3 years — Playground surface impact test. Required for unitary surfacing materials such as rubber and synthetic grass, post-installation and then every three years, to confirm the impact-attenuating surface still meets AS 4422: Playground Surfacing.