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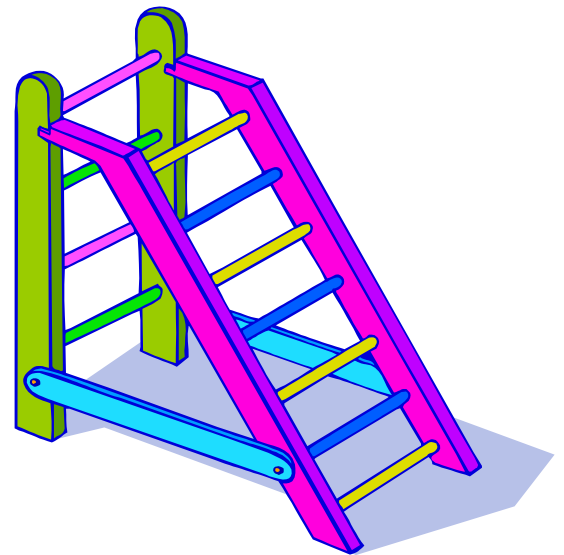
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## **SIP TIP: PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

For those people with young children, there is a good chance you will find yourself at a playground several times over the summer and fall. You may even be involved with the construction of a playground set.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has posted a Public Playground Safety Checklist that provides some useful tips for safety around playground sets. An 8.5" x 11" colorful poster can be downloaded at <http://www.cpsc.gov/kids/kidsafety/buddy.html>. The checklist points are repeated below:

1. Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel. Or install mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
2. Check that the protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure the surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
3. Make sure play structures that are more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart.
4. Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
5. Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
6. Check for sharp points or edges in the equipment.
7. Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
8. Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.
9. Check playground regularly to see that the equipment and surfacing are in good condition.
10. Carefully supervisor children on playground sets to make sure they're safe.



**REMINDER: BE CAREFUL AROUND PLAYGROUND SETS.**