



VS. LOOSE FILL SAFETY SURFACING

Play Flecks® Thermoplastic Rubber (TPR)

ADVANTAGES

- U.V. Resistant/Light Stable.
- Anti-Microbials included in both Urethane Binder and Rubber Granular to prevent bacteria growth.
- Porous surface allowing water to drain completely through.
- No harmful ingredients to children or the environment.
- Designs/Logos can be incorporated into the play surface adding play value.
- Meets and exceeds impact attenuation (ASTM F1292) in all weather.
- High quality products won't lose physical properties over time.
- Can be installed over a hard base or crushed stone base.
- Low Maintenance
- ADA/Wheelchair accessible.
- 100% Recyclable.
- Totally seamless surface.
- 5-Year Warranty.
- Repairs easily.

DISADVANTAGES

- Requires professional installation.
- Higher initial cost.
- Requires annual cleaning (leaf blower/power washer) to remove dirt and/or debris.

Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF)

ADVANTAGES

- Fairly Durable.
- ADA/Wheelchair accessible (when properly maintained).
- Low initial cost.
- Easy to obtain.
- Natural appearance.

DISADVANTAGES

- Decomposes and compresses over time.
- Attracts fungus and microbial growth when wet/damp.
- High humidity and freezing temperatures can reduce its effectiveness. **Due to moisture freezing throughout the surface, engineered wood fiber should not be used in cold weather.*
- High maintenance.
- Can easily be displaced to areas outside of the play area.
- Parents report that children pick it up to play with or put it in their mouth.
- Can cause splinters.
- Raking is required under wear areas to keep the proper system depth.
- The depth should be inspected on a regular basis to ensure the surface meets ASTM F1292.
- Wood Fiber will need to be topped off every 1-3 years.
- Can conceal animal excrement or dangerous sharp items.
- Conditions could occur that may be prevalent for weed growth.
- Flammable
- Limited design options.
- Studies by the National Center of Accessibility (NCA) found that playground sites with engineered wood fiber require "greater work force needed to move across the surface".

Rubber Mulch

ADVANTAGES

- Low cost.
- Eco-Friendly – Made with 100% recycled tires.
- Easy to install.

DISADVANTAGES

- Variety in quality, metal from tires may be left in some rubber mulch.
- Made from recycled tires containing carcinogens/toxic chemicals.
- Mostly black rubber, creating a hot surface in warmer climates.
- High maintenance.
- Can easily be displaced to areas outside the play area.
- Raking is required under wear areas to ensure the proper depths are maintained.
- Surface should be inspected on a regular basis to ensure the depth of the surface meets ASTM F1292.
- Highly flammable.
- Not effective at controlling weeds.
- In hot temperatures rubber mulch may smell and let off harmful fumes.
- Can conceal animal excrement or dangerous sharp items.
- Requires greater work force needed to move across the surface.