

CPSC Issues Alert for Climbing Gyms

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPCS) warns child care providers that children's plastic climbing equipment should not be used indoors on wood or cement floors, even if covered with carpet. CPSC reports that two children were killed and hundreds injured when they fell from climbing equipment placed indoors on these surfaces.

If your center uses indoor play equipment, it is imperative to install protective surfacing that meets ASTM F 1292 *Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment*. You can consult a playground surface vendor for materials appropriate for indoor play that meet the standard.

You should also use protective floor covering that meets ASTM F-1292 under any piece of play equipment or platform that is taller than 18 inches. Pay particular attention to entrance and exit stairways on plastic climbing equipment, climbing walls and ladders, and slide exits. Make sure protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions.

Place outdoor climbing equipment on surfaces such as sand or mulch to prevent children's head injuries.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.