

Is Your Sandbox Up To Standard?

Keeping a sandbox free of hazards and contaminants is a very important part of any playground safety program.

Caring for Our Children recommends the following:

- Construct sandboxes to permit drainage.
- Cover sandboxes with a lid or other covering when they are not in use.
- Keep sandboxes free from cat and other animal excrement.
- Locate sand play areas away from landing areas for slides and other equipment.
- Make sure sandbox covers are adequately secured when they are lifted or moved to allow children to play in the sandbox.
- Use sand that is washed; free of organic, toxic, or harmful materials; and fine enough to be shaped easily.
- Rake sand daily to uncover and remove foreign objects.
- Replace sand often to keep it clean and free of debris.
- Locate sandboxes away from prevailing winds, or create windbreaks by using bushes, trees, or fences.
- Inspect sand for insects and animals that may have taken up residence overnight.

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.