ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER (EWF) PLAYGROUND SURFACES
INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Installation Instructions

Accessibility standards require playgrounds to provide 60-inch-wide accessible routes within playgrounds to provide opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to be able access one of each type of ground level play components and access to entry and exit points of accessible elevated play components. The accessible routes and the clear ground space at required accessible play components, are required to meet minimum requirements for many different surface characteristics including firmness, stability and slope. To ensure compliance with accessibility standards, correct installation and a commitment to ongoing maintenance to ensure continued compliance is required. Ensuring the playground surface meets accessibility standards throughout the entire playground instead of only along accessible routes and clear spaces exceed the minimums and fosters inclusion for all.

1. To provide an installation for immediate access for all abilities, the engineered wood fiber (EWF) must be raked level and mechanically compacted as it is being installed. Install the EWF in 6" layers (6” compacts to 4”) or less which allows for mechanical compaction using a vibrating plate compactor – (Fig.1) or a small, asphalt vibrating ride-on roller for larger areas. Repeat the installation of layers until desired, final compacted thickness is achieved. Compact in 2 directions for best results. Water should be added to help swell the wood fibers, so the fibers knit together and speed up the compaction process. Natural compaction occurs when rain and usage of the surface are present, but this can take up to 6 weeks or longer de-pending on weather and usage.


Fig. 1

Maintenance Instructions

Top-Offs

1. To maintain the engineered wood fiber at the recommended (8 in. or 12 in.) depth, you will need to top-off the playground every 2-3 years or as necessary based on use to maintain proper depth and comply with warranty.
2. When the engineered wood fiber depth falls below the original compacted depth (marked on the playground uprights at the time of installation), contact your Robertson representative to order fresh material.
3. Entry into the playground. The transition from a hard surface connecting route into the EWF playground surface must not have a change in level greater than a ½ inch. Top off the EWF to create a smooth and level transition into the playground or hard surface- (Fig 2).


Fig. 2

Heavy Use Areas


Fig. 3

1. During routine inspections, heavily used areas such as under swings and at slide exits should be raked level to maintain proper surface material depth and compliance- (Fig.3).
2. If heavy use areas are not raked for long periods of time, the depth of TotTurf engineered wood fiber may be reduced, lessening its impact attenuation properties and create a non-compliance area. Just raking may not ensure the area is compliant so topping-off surface materials may be necessary in order to retain the proper critical fall height depths.
3. Placement of TotTurf wear mats in heavy use areas will help reduce displacement of engineered wood fiber, reduce required periodic maintenance, and ensure ongoing compliance. Be sure to maintain the EWF around the mat to avoid trip hazards.

Foreign Objects

1. Rake the play area level.
2. During routine inspection, remove any foreign objects such as glass, rocks, and litter.

Winter Weather

If sufficient moisture is retained in TotTurf engineered wood fiber, it will freeze at temperatures below 32°F (0°C). The engineered wood fiber surface should be checked when the temperature falls below freezing.

Accessibility

1. To maintain a firm, stable accessible surface; rake, level and compact as necessary. To start, focus on the access routes leading into and out of the play area around an entrance ramp, for example (Fig.6 next page), accessible routes leading to ground level components, accessible routes from entry/exit points of designated accessible play equipment (See Figure 4), clear floor spaces where a person may park their mobile device such as at ground level play components (Fig.5 next page), transfer platforms (Fig.7 next page) and entry/exit points of play equipment. These areas must be firm, compacted and level to within 2% in all directions and minimum of 30"x48" in size. For swing areas, a clear floor space that is level (<2%) must be beside the swing for parking/transferring from a mobile device to the swing and vice-versa. (Fig. 8 next page).

Above- White dotted lines show access routes leading to and from equipment exit to transfer platform.

Fig. 5- Example of clear floor space in front of ground level component.

Fig. 6- Example of entrance ramp for above ground installations.

Fig. 7- Example of child using transfer platform to transition from mobile device to platform.

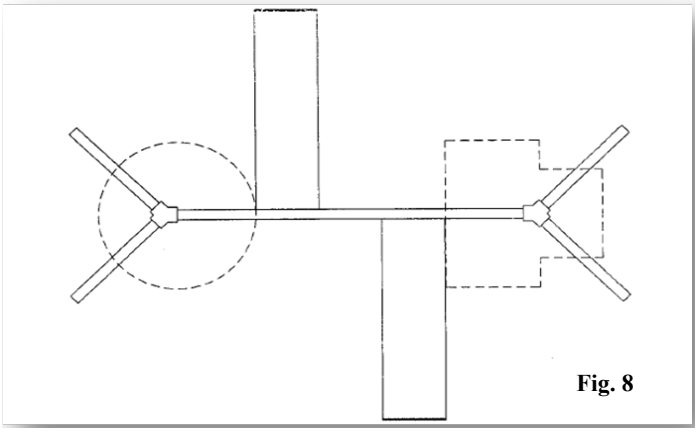

Fig. 8- At an accessible swing a turning space must be provided. The turning surface must be maintained- shown in dotted line. Either a 60-inch turning circle or T-shaped space is acceptable.

Note: Periodical adjustments of engineered wood fiber are required under slides, swings and other heavily traveled areas and concentrated use zones. Installing TotTurf mats in these areas will help control displacement in these high use zones and reduce maintenance activities. **WARNING: Failure to maintain engineered wood fiber at the initial installation depth may result in an injury and void your warranty.**

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