



WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

509 Girard Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
Telephone: 360-778-6000
Fax: 360-778-6001

PROCEDURES FOR BUILDING OR REMODELING A PLAYGROUND FOR A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Washington State Board of Health Rules for Primary and Secondary Schools (WAC 246-366-040) require school operators to submit plans for new or remodeled playground facilities to the Whatcom County Health Department for review and approval. Playground plans are reviewed using ASTM F1487-07 and Consumer Product Safety Commission Playground Standards. This packet will help guide you through Health Department review and approval to build or remodel a **Playground**. This packet is intended as a guide only and may not answer all of your questions. If you have questions about this packet, please contact (360) 676-6724.

Use this packet to submit plans for:

New or remodeled school playgrounds

Submit the following information to the Health Department:

- * The **application packet** and **\$360.00 + \$10.80 (3% Technology Fee) = \$370.80** for the first hour of review and one pre-operational inspection. Additional review time will be billed at \$132.00 per hour separately and must be paid prior to pre-operational inspection.
- * A **site plan** drawn to scale (show all dimensions) that includes:
 - **Use zones**;
 - **All play structures and swings** - Include both elevation and plan views; if possible.
 - **Depth and types** of protective surfacing.

Once this information has been reviewed, you will receive notice of either plan approval or of additional information required for Health Department approval. Changes to your plans may be required. Do not proceed with construction until plan approval has been granted.

Your project may also require approval from other agencies. Remember to contact:

- * The city or county building department for permits for plumbing, electrical, mechanical, structural, or other work;

Prior to opening your facility, you will have to complete these additional steps:

- * Call our office to schedule an inspection at least two working days prior to opening.
- * Pay any outstanding plan review fees.



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PLAYGROUND PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION

FEE \$360.00 + \$10.80 (3% Technology Fee) = \$370.80

New Playground Remodel Information Update Only

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS OF SCHOOL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

ARCHITECT CONTACT NAME _____

(if applicable)

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

CONSTRUCTION: ANTICIPATED START DATE _____

COMPLETION DATE _____

IMPORTANT!!: PLEASE PROVIDE ALL MATERIALS REQUESTED AT THE TIME PLANS ARE SUBMITTED (SEE PAGE 1 FOR A LIST OF REQUIRED INFORMATION). FAILURE TO DO SO CAN RESULT IN DELAYS TO YOUR PROJECT. CHANGES TO YOUR PLANS MAY BE REQUIRED. DO NOT PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION UNTIL YOUR PROJECT HAS BEEN

DATE _____ SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Approved _____ Assigned to _____

Facility # _____ Program # _____ Account # _____

Received By _____ Date _____ Amount Paid _____ Check # _____

Playground Plan Review Checklist

Name of school: _____

Address: _____

Equipment manufacturer: _____ Phone number: _____

Manufacturer's representative: _____ Phone number: _____

Equipment installer: _____ Phone number: _____

Estimated start date: _____ Estimated completion date: _____

Surfacing Information

What type of surfaces will be installed?

Unitary synthetic materials

Sand

Engineered wood fiber or chips

Wood chips

Gravel

Other _____

How deep will the materials be? _____ inches

Manufacturer's information attached with application Yes No, none available

Site Design Information

What is the intended user age group for the playground? 2–5 years (preschool) 5–12 years school age)

If the playground contains equipment for both user age groups, is there a distance separating the two areas? Yes No

Will signs be posted indicating the appropriate age of the users? Yes No

Is the playground fenced and separated from traffic? Yes No

Are the barriers and landscaping designed so they will allow observation of the users by supervisors? Yes No

Is the sight level and well-drained? Yes No

Is there a septic system located on the school grounds? Yes No

(If yes, the playground should not be located over the drainfield. Please show drainfield location on playground footprint plan.)

Equipment Design Information

If installing fulcrum seesaws, will there be padding under the seats to help prevent arms and legs from being crushed between the seat and the ground? Yes No

What is the seesaw height (distance between the maximum attainable height and the ground)? _____ inches

Slide bed exit region length (portion parallel to ground) _____ inches

Does the slide layout meet the minimum CPSC slide exit use zone (minimum 6', maximum 8')? Yes No

Does the slide layout meet the minimum ASTM slide exit use zone (height of slide, measured from end of slide)? Yes No

Guy wires, power lines, and tree limbs should be at least 7 feet above the playground surface.

Installed Equipment Heights:

To-and-fro Swings (ground to pivot point height): _____ inches

Tire swings (seat to pivot point height): _____ inches

Upper body equipment (maximum height of equipment): _____ inches

Spring toys (seat or highest designated play surface height): _____ inches

Balance beams (height from top of beam to protective surfacing): _____ inches

Track rides (handle height above ground): _____ inches

Equipment not recommended for pre-school children (2–5 years old):

- Chain or cable walks
- Free standing arch climbers
- Free standing climbing events with flexible components
- Fulcrum seesaws, unless they are spring centering
- Log rolls
- Long spiral slides (more than one turn ~ 360°)
- Overhead rings
- Parallel bars
- Track rides
- Vertical sliding poles
- Swinging gates