

# PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

Because use and environmental factors as well as materials vary, every playground is different. It is imperative that those responsible for maintenance of the playground understand the maintenance requirements necessary to keep it safe, attractive and to extend its useful life. It is the responsibility of the playground equipment manufacturer to provide instructions as to how the equipment is to be installed and maintained as well as to provide a general guideline as to the frequency of those procedures. It is your responsibility as owner to establish a frequency schedule for each playground and to follow the manufacturers recommended procedures.

The owner also has the responsibility to certify/qualify those performing installation and maintenance services.

It is important that you recognize the severity of the potential hazard that may be found upon inspection. In some cases you may have to close the playground until repairs are made. These hazards will most likely be the result of vandalism - assuming proper maintenance has been performed.

Protective surfacing throughout the use zone must be maintained at a thickness or depth sufficient to meet ASTM F1292 standards (Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment) at maximum fall heights for equipment installed above the surfacing.

If replacement parts, cleaners, touch-up kits, etc. are required, they can be ordered from your local Landscape Structures representa-

## Smart Play®

tive or the factory. Part numbers and descriptions can be found on the back of the installation instruction sheets provided.

If you have any questions, call our technical services dept. at 1-800-328-0035.

The following pages identify common finishes and materials used in Independent Playthings. The procedure for inspecting, cleaning, repairing and replacing each of the finishes or materials is outlined in this packet to make your maintenance decisions easier and quicker.

When inspecting your Independent Playthings refer to the materials comprising the product and follow the procedures accordingly. For instance, A Learning Wall will require you to follow procedures for fasteners, permalene parts, powdercoated parts and footings, and, if for instance, a periscope panel is provided, welded parts.

Refer to the specific product installation / specification sheets (supplied with this packet) for common periscope construction details and a replacement parts list.

Record your findings and actions taken on the inspection report form in the back of this packet (run copies for future use). A separate report should be kept for each playground and each inspection. An example of a completed form follows on the back of this sheet.

Use only original replacement parts from Landscape Structures Inc. Commonly used cleaning/repair materials not supplied with Independent Playthings but available from Landscape Structures Inc:

#101317-00 Emery Cloth 400 Grit  
#101260-00 Paint Primer  
#101219-00 Paint (State Color)  
#115181-00 TenderTuff Patch

**POOR  
MAINTENANCE  
IS  
THE  
MAJOR  
CAUSE  
OF  
AT  
LEAST  
40%  
OF  
ALL  
REPORTED  
PLAYGROUND  
ACCIDENTS**

  
**landscape  
structures®**

# Reading The Maintenance Procedures Sheets

Indicates the frequency that these items should be inspected, i.e.: 1 indicates inspection every time, 10 indicates every tenth inspection. NOTE: This frequency is based upon a normal and periodic maintenance schedule. If you experience vandalism, it will require immediate attention.

Indicates the part to be inspected and how to do it. The part is repeated on the inspection report.

# Completing The Inspection Report

Indicates the date the playground equipment was installed.

Product to be inspected.

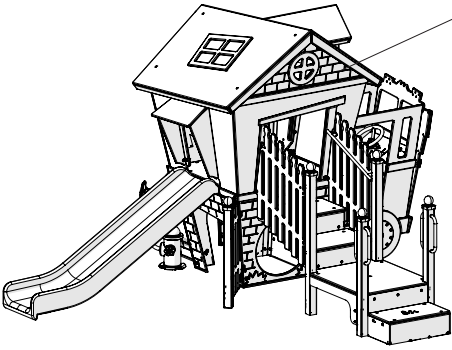
Nothing needed at this inspection.

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE


Fire Station

Title of Sheet

<p>■ <b>Fasteners</b> _____ 1 Tighten attachment fasteners. Replace if cracked, deformed or broken.</p> <p>■ <b>General Materials/Finishes</b> _____ 1 Refer to the General Cleaning/Repairing Instructions found in the "PlayBooster System Playground Maintenance Sheet."</p> <p>■ <b>Permalene Panels</b> _____ 1 Replace if panel is cracked, brittle or seriously discolored. Scratches can be burnished away with a clean, blunt instrument.</p> <p>■ <b>Poly Parts</b> _____ 2 Replace if cracked, brittle or seriously discolored.</p> <p>■ <b>Supports (Powder coated)</b> _____ 2 Check to be sure attachment hardware is in place and snug. Replace rubber bushing if cracked or missing. Replace if welds are cracked or if the unit is deformed or severely pitted with corrosion. Repair damaged powder coating per repair sheet.</p> <p>■ <b>Concrete Footing</b> _____ 10 Shovel away protective surfacing and part of subsoil to inspect. Replace footing if it is cracked or not tight around post or subsoil. Add protective surfacing if footing is not covered with appropriate depth of material.</p> <p>■ <b>Wheel (Tenderuff)</b> _____ 1 Replace if cracked, deformed or broken.</p>	<p>■ <b>Digifuse Panels</b> _____ 1 Replace if panel is not legible, deformed or defaced. Contact Landscape Structures for replacement.</p> <p>■ <b>Tunnel (Tenderuff)</b> _____ 2 (If applicable) Replace if welds are cracked or if the unit is deformed or severely pitted with corrosion. Repair damaged tenderuff-coating per repair sheet.</p> <p>■ <b>Cable(s)</b> _____ 2 Replace if cables are cut or severely damaged.</p>	<p>■ <b>Window Polycarbonate</b> _____ 1 Replace if severely scratched or if cracks are 2" or longer. Cap screws should be snug only. (Do not over-tighten!)</p> <p>■ <b>Frame/Components</b> _____ 2 Replace if welds are cracked, deformed, or severely pitted with corrosion. Repair damaged powdercoating per repair sheet.</p>
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Document #24321800



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Sheet # \_\_\_\_\_



Da. and. MN 850-978-0033

## Inspection Report

Location: Bonnie Lake County Park Inspector: John Smith

Date: 8-18-96 Time: 2:30 PM Frequency of Inspections: weekly

Installation Date: 8-2-94 Installer: Bob Johnson of Play Installations

<b>PRODUCT:</b>	<u>Learning Wall #1114747</u>
No Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleaned	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repaired	<u>Yes</u>
Replaced	<u>Tightened hardware and burnished out deep scratch.</u>
Notes	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	<u>Rainbow Climber #100038B</u>
No Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleaned	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repaired	<u>Chipped paint</u>
Replaced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes	<u>Footings OK</u>
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	<u>Superscoop #100029A</u>
No Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cleaned	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repaired	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replaced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes	<u>Bushings are getting loose. (30¢ over 1/2)</u>
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	<u>Belt Swing # 100018A</u>
No Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleaned	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repaired	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replaced	<u>Closed "S" Hook</u>
Notes	<u>"S" Hooks 20¢ each.</u>
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	
No Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleaned	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repaired	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replaced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes	

Indicates how often these products are to be inspected.

Name of person, agency or company that originally installed the equipment.

What you found and what you did about it.

Keep one copy of this form as your original to make copies as necessary.

# PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

It is estimated that at least 40% of all accidents on public playgrounds could have been prevented if a good preventative maintenance program were in place. A good program establishes a frequency of inspections that are commensurate with the use and environmental factors unique to each play area. Some playgrounds will require daily inspections while others in the same area may require only bi-weekly inspections. The deterioration and/or wear of various play components can be predicted when certain factors are known. On the other hand, vandalism has a major influence on the frequency of inspections but is not as predictable.

The following guide utilizes the most common use and environmental factors that will influence your schedule. Each factor has been weighed as to its importance and influence on the schedule. Local conditions may include other factors, and in some cases, may affect seasonal adjustments to the schedule. Experience is your best guide.

## A Guide to the Frequency of Inspections

Enter the factor points in the right hand column that best describes the conditions at the playground.

<b>Use Factors</b>	Factor Points
<b>Vandalism</b> .....	_____
High - 10 pts.	
Moderate - 5 pts.	
Low - 2 pts.	
<b>Use</b> .....	_____
High - 10 pts.	
Moderate - 2 pts.	
Low - 2 pts.	
<b>Age</b> .....	_____
PreSchool - 1 pt.	
School Age - 3 pts.	
All Ages - 2 pts.	

### Materials

<b>Protective Surfacing</b> .....	_____
Loose Material - 18 pts.	
Unitary Material - 2 pts.	
<b>Material of Major Components</b> .....	_____
Wood, Painted Steel - 4 pts.	
Plastics, Aluminum, Galvanized Steel - 2 pts.	
Stainless Steel - 0 pts.	
<b>Equipment</b> .....	_____
Moving: Swings, Spin-Arounds, etc. - 8 pts.	
Static: Non-Moving Climbers - 2 pts.	
Both - 8 pts.	
<b>Age of Equipment</b> .....	_____
0-5 years - 2 pts.	
5-10 years - 6 pts.	
Over 10 years - 10 pts.	

### Environmental Factors

<b>Salt Air - Coastal Exposure</b> .....	_____
None - 0 pts.	
Moderate - 2 pts.	
High - 5 pts.	
<b>Acid Soils/ Rain</b> .....	_____
None - 0 pts.	
Moderate - 1 pt.	
High - 2 pts.	
<b>Sun Exposure</b> .....	_____
Low - 1 pt.	
Moderate - 2 pts.	
High - 4 pts.	

### Total

Enter Total Points Here ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
See back to determine frequency of inspections.



# PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

## Your Total Points

50 or More
40-50

30-40
Below 30

## Recommended Frequency of Inspections

Daily Inspections	High Frequency
Weekly Inspections	

BiMonthly Inspections	Low Frequency
Monthly Inspections	

### NOTE:

For your program to be effective, the inspectors must be properly trained. Call the equipment manufacturer if you are uncertain as to how a particular component should be inspected and when it should be replaced.

Keep this worksheet with other documentation on this playground.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Person Completing Worksheet \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address of Playground \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended Frequency of Inspections:

High Use Period \_\_\_\_\_

Low Use Period \_\_\_\_\_



# MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

## Independent Playthings

### Finishes

#### Powdercoating, ie: Metal Climbers, Superscoops, etc.

**Cleaning:** Apply “Graffiti Cleaner” (not supplied) to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle.

**Repairing:** With emery cloth sand area to be repaired until all rust is removed. Be sure to rough and feather edges of surrounding powdercoated area with 400 grit sandpaper until smooth. Protect adjacent areas from overspray, if necessary. Apply a minimum of 2 light coats of primer. Allow to dry to the touch between coats. Lightly sand with 400 grit sandpaper, then wipe with clean cloth. Use the same method to apply a minimum of 2 light coats of paint. Be sure to allow areas to dry 3 to 4 hours before use. (Drying time will vary).

**Replacing:** Replace if pitted with rust or if you can’t remove all rust by sanding.

#### TenderTuff-Coating, ie: Decks, Wheels, etc.

**Cleaning:** Apply “Graffiti Cleaner” (not supplied) to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle. Heavy stains may need to be removed mechanically first (scrape with a knife or sandpaper). Seal the affected area with “Clear Guard” by Turtle Wax or “Armor All” by Armor All. Buff the area until the colors blend.

**Repairing:** Use TenderTuff Patch to replace worn or vandalized areas of TenderTuff-coating. To apply the patch, first prep area by lightly sanding affected area. Apply a sufficient amount of patch and level out with a flat edge. A putty knife or similar tool works best. For edges, apply a small amount of patch on affected area and use a piece of stiff paper or cardboard and form it around the corner and level out. Surface should be repaired on a dry day. It will skin over in approximately two hours and completely cure in twenty-four hours. During this time, it is advisable to keep the area restricted from users. Note that this is a self curing patch and it will shrink as it cures, possibly requiring two coats. Clean up can be done with mild soap and warm water. If a spray paint color match is required, allow to cure at least six hours prior to painting.

**Replacing:** Replace if pitted with rust.

### Materials

#### Permalene Parts, ie: Learning Wall Panels, TuffRiders, etc.

**Cleaning:** Apply “Graffiti Cleaner” (not supplied) to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle.

**Repairing:** Scratches can be burnished away with a clean, blunt instrument.

**Replacing:** Replace if panel is cracked, brittle or seriously discolored.

# MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

## Independent Playthings

### **Poly Parts, ie: Slides, TuffTimbers, Tires, Number Discs, etc.**

**Cleaning:** Apply "Graffiti Cleaner" (not supplied) to affected area. Follow the directions on the bottle.

**Repairing:** Scratches can be sanded or burnished away with a clean, blunt instrument. Burnish until they "melt together". More significant repairs are not economically feasible.

**Replacing:** Replace if cracked, brittle or seriously discolored.

### **Polycarbonate Parts, ie: Windows, Bubbles, etc.**

**Cleaning:** Use glass cleaner spray for cleaning. No abrasives.

**Repairing:** Sharp corners from scratches can be burnished away with a clean, blunt instrument.

**Replacing:** Replace if cracked or severely scratched.

### **Stainless Steel Parts, ie: Slides**

**Repairing:** Call the technical services dept., some repairs can be made in the field with the proper equipment and trained technician.

**Replacing:** Replace if welds are cracked or bedway is seriously deformed.

### **Welded Parts, ie: Metal Climbers, Handrails, etc.**

**Repairing:** Call the technical services dept., some repairs can be made in the field with the proper equipment and trained technician.

**Replacing:** Replace if welds are cracked or the unit is deformed or pitted with rust.

### **Bushings, ie: Swing Hangers, Wheels, Superscoop, etc.**

**Repairing:** Not possible.

**Replacing:** Replace bushings if 50% worn. Check "play" in bushings by moving the axle up & down (most bushings are  $\frac{1}{8}$ " + thick, thus  $\frac{1}{16}$ " of "play" would require replacing).

### **Springs**

**Repairing:** Do not attempt to repair springs.

**Replacing:** Replace if unit is cracked, broken or pitted with rust.

### **Swing Seats**

**Repairing:** Not recommended.

**Replacing:** Typical life expectancy of swing seats is 3 - 5 years. However, in high usage areas, it may be necessary to replace these more often.

(Seats) Replace seat if cracked, cut, seriously deformed, discolored or any reinforcement metal within the rubber is showing. Replace metal seat hanger brackets if 50% worn. (Visual inspection).

(Molded Bucket Seat) Replace seat if cracked, cut, seriously deformed or discolored. Replace aluminum seat mounting brackets if 50% worn. (Visual inspection). It is expected that swing seats will require periodic replacement.

# MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

## Independent Playthings

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### Chain and Connectors

**Repairing:** If chain is TenderTuff-Coated see TenderTuff-Coated Parts. Close/tighten connectors as necessary.

("S" hooks must be closed to less than a .040" gap).

**Replacing:** Replace chain and connectors if 50% worn. Note wear on report. (Visual inspection).

### Footings

**Replacing:** Replace footing if cracked or not tight around post, support or subsoil.

### Fasteners/Hardware and Clamps

**Repairing:** Tighten attachment hardware as necessary. Repairing fasteners is not economically feasible.

**Replacing:** Replace if pitted with rust or deformed. Also replace drive rivets in clamps if missing.

### Metal Castings, ie: Swing Hangers, Post Caps, Superscoop Bucket, etc.

**Repairing:** Not recommended.

**Replacing:** Replace if cracked or broken. It is expected that some components, such as Superscoop Buckets, will require replacing periodically. (2-3 Years is common).



Delano, Mn.  
800-328-0035

# Inspection Report

Delano, MN 800-328-0035

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency of Inspections \_\_\_\_\_

Installation Date \_\_\_\_\_ Installer \_\_\_\_\_

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	





Dulano, MN 55002-0035

# Inspection Report

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency of Inspections \_\_\_\_\_

Installation Date \_\_\_\_\_ Installer \_\_\_\_\_

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	

**PRODUCT:**

No Action	
Cleaned	
Repaired	
Replaced	
Notes	