

Rubber Playground Surfacing in Icy Conditions

Rubber is a good thermal insulator and therefore rubber surfaces tend to freeze over in wintry conditions.

Recommendations

Wicksteed recommends the use of a urea-based de-icer. An example is Magic Ice Melt or similar. This type of product should quickly clear ice and prevent the surface from becoming too slippery. This type of urea-based product is accepted as being harmless to children, animals and plants, although you should always do a full COSHH and risk assessment before using any chemical product.

Salt, rock salt and grit can also be used, but this can often leave staining on rubber surfaces and a reduction in porosity when these materials ingress into the surface. Overall, however, they are not considered to affect the physical properties or longevity of the rubber surfacing.

Pre-winter power washing and mould removal of the surface can remove 'greasy' areas and improve the drainage of the surface, which in turn will also help to prevent slipperiness and freezing over.

As soon as the bad weather has passed any excess materials left on the surface should be swept up and removed and, if required, the surface can be power washed to restore the appearance and porosity.

Magic Ice Melt

This product can be sourced from many retailers and below is the manufacturer's description:-

Magic Ice Melt is a free flowing, fast acting solid de-icer in the form of white granules. The product is completely harmless to humans and animals and will not attack fabrics or metals, thus allowing application without the need for protective clothing. It's free flowing properties mean it can be applied sparingly, ensuring maximum economy.

- **NON-TOXIC TO HUMANS AND ANIMALS**
Will not harm children or pets if eaten or picked up.
- **NON-TOXIC TO VEGETATION**
Unlike salt will not burn borders, grassy areas, sports fields or plant life. It is fully bio-degradable.
- **LEAVES NO MESS INDOORS**
Will not stain carpets or damage polished flooring if walked inside.
- **DOES NOT CORRODE METALS, CONCRETE OR ASTROTURF**
Ideal on playgrounds, all-weather pitches, steps, stairs, car parks and any area that requires a fast acting, non-toxic, non-corrosive and easily applied de-icer.
- **CLEAN, LIGHT AND EASY TO APPLY**
No damage to clothing or irritation to skin.
- **10 TIMES MORE COVERAGE THAN ROCK SALT**
Light, free flowing product makes it easy to apply sparingly.

Wicksteed Inspection Checklists can be downloaded from www.wicksteed.co.uk to assist you with your playground inspection record keeping.

Customer Services, Wicksteed Leisure Limited, Digby Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN16 8YJ
Telephone: 01536 517028 Fax: 01536 410633 E-mail: customerservices@wicksteed.co.uk Website: www.wicksteed.co.uk

Photocopies of these guidelines will provide you with a valuable aid to record keeping.

Site Name

Maintenance Date

