

Eco-Tumble Rubber Safety Surfacing

Eco-Tumble is a low maintenance surface compared with many loose fill products and some other artificial surfaces; however as with any surface, even tarmac and concrete, a good maintenance and cleaning programme will enhance the longevity and cosmetic appearance of your Eco-Tumble surface. These guidance notes are not exhaustive of every situation and common sense should always be applied.

1.0 Routine Cleaning and Inspection

There is no set frequency for maintenance as individual applications, the particular environment and levels of use will influence the extent and time between cleaning and inspection. General inspection of public and school playgrounds should **form part of the overall risk assessment for the site**, and it is not unusual for **daily checks to be carried out, in order to identify potential hazards** prior to play.

Over time your surface may get covered with dirt, debris and a small amount of loose pieces of rubber. (Minor dislodging of rubber shred or 'fretting' of the surface is quite normal and any loose rubber shred will generally just sit amongst the bonded material adding to the natural effect.) Routinely remove any litter, leaves or other detritus material from the surface, to avoid the debris rotting down and potentially impeding drainage or reducing surface traction.

1.1 Brushing

It is advisable to only use a soft or semi-stiff brush to break down surface dirt and not aggressively brush off surface debris, as this is more likely to dislodge any loose rubber on the surface, and grind in very fine vegetation material between the bonded mulch particles. (The only exception to this is if you wish to remove any loose rubber; e.g. perhaps a nursery with very small babies crawling on the surface.)

1.2 Power Vacuum and Blower

We have found that the best method for removing surface debris is to either use a power-blower to blow the surface debris off the area and then collect by brushing or to use an outdoor vacuum to collect debris directly off the surface.

1.3 Washing the surface

In most cases the use of cleaning agents is not required, however from time to time stubborn stains may require a light application of household or commercial detergents. Corrosive materials like **bleach should never be used**; however a light detergent that is suitable for use in schools and public places, maybe used in the diluted form as per manufacturer's instructions of the relevant cleaner.

Thoroughly wash the surface to rinse through any detergent and dirt, using a water hose and spray nozzle, or a power washer **set on fan setting only**. It is important to not have the power sprayer nozzle too close to the surface and the spray not set to be too aggressive; to avoid dislodging any rubber shred from the surface.

2.0 Specific maintenance tasks

From time to time there will be specific tasks that may require attention.

2.1 Weed and Algae Control

A geo-textile should always be applied as part of your Eco-Tumble surface and this, in the main, will restrict weed growth from the base soil up. However, no matter how much care is taken, weeds may occasionally appear on the surface as a result of windblown seeds and surrounding grass maintenance.

A small number of weeds can be removed by hand, taking care not to just snap off the root as these will quickly re-grow. For larger areas of weed infestation, proprietary weed killers suitable for use in schools

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

Site Name

Maintenance Date

and public places can be used in liquid form. (Granular weed killers placed directly on the surface are not recommended, as the slow dilution of the granule will be unlikely to spread horizontally and adjacent weeds will not be treated. Also some granules in dry conditions can prove to be corrosive if left in place for too long.)

In damp or shaded areas any surface may attract moss and algae and your Eco-Tumble surface, although very fast draining, may from time to time have small areas that require treatment. Suitable non-corrosive pathway moss killers and algaecides may be used, giving due consideration to timing of such applications in relation to children's safety on the areas following treatment with any chemical.

2.2 Snow and Ice

Snow and Ice is generally not harmful to the rubber materials used in Eco-Tumble, but users should be aware that when fully frozen, the impact attenuation properties of the surface will be adversely affected - as with all frozen surfaces. (The high drainage capabilities of the Eco-Tumble systems help reduce freezing for longer, although in extreme conditions all surfaces will freeze.) Careful removal of loose snow with rubber edged scrapers is acceptable, but care must be taken not to scrape snow that is frozen into the surface. Under no circumstances clear snow off the surface with metal shovels.

In freezing conditions the use of play equipment should be restricted whenever practical, due to increased risk of injury. Do not use chemical de-icing agents as these may be harmful to the surface or rock salt, as uneven defrosting may cause injury to users and damage to the surface.

2.3 Repairs and surface refreshing

Following inspections, should it be found that damage or vandalism has occurred or the surface requires attention due to general wear and tear, it is important that any tears or holes are attended to as soon as practically possible, in order to prevent spreading of the damaged area. If you wish to refresh the look of your Eco-Tumble surface, PU colour coating spraying services are available from specialist companies. Please contact Wicksteed for advice on all specific repairs or new colour coating.

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

