

EVERPLAY NEWS

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Will YOU Pay Twice?

As a result of an attempt to reduce cost and make a specification generic, **you may have to purchase your 'protective surface' twice or upgrade it within a few years** of the initial installation. You may also have to budget for a retrofit or replacement rather than expanding to new projects. If a synthetic surface fails to meet standards over time, you could well **be paying twice the initial cost** or more depending upon the failure of the existing surface.

According to the various standards for playground surfacing you will install a **'protective playground surface' generally 6' from the perimeter of a play structure** to absorb the impact from a fall. The degree of the impact absorbed is outlined in the **ASTM F1292-95 standard for playground surfacing**. A surface can consist of a number of materials such as **sand, metering stone, woodchips or synthetic**. The type of surface will depend upon your needs and the intensity of use of the play area. Where there is very little activity and an adequate maintenance budget to keep loose materials clean and loose, you would potentially select the sand or metering stone. The woodchips would carry a higher initial cost to the loose surface, however depending upon the type of woodchip selected,

(Continued on page 2)



**Come visit
our WEB
Site**

<http://www.everplay.com/everplay>

With changes and advances everyone is surfing the net. Get on your keyboard and surf by our Web Page. Once there you will find information and specification on EVERPLAY and the many product that are available to you. Using your browser you will be able to capture and download images, text files, autocad files and much more.

From time to time there will be special offers for you to purchase some of our EVERPLAY Task Mats by E-mail Order. These are ideal for weight training, fitness, skates, fatigue and many other applications where a durable, resilient surface is required. Our new tee-off mat will also be available this way.

Make the EVERPLAY home page one of your first stops as we will be placing links to areas related to the interests of all those concerned with excellence in play and recreation. We welcome municipalities and school boards to provide us with the address for their home page, to allow viewers an EVERPLAY installation in a particular location to immediately visit that town or school on the Internet.

The World Wide Web is a place of innovation and capable of providing a great benefit to its users. At EVERPLAY, we believe that continually reaching to the higher goal through ingenuity and technical and chemical innovation allow us to continually provide you with a better line of products.

Our web site address is <http://www.caspar.net/everplay> or you can send E-mail to rolf@everplay.com. We are looking forward to your visit.

EVERPLAY

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play and recreation surfaces EVERPLAY INSTALLATION INC.

Will YOU Pay Twice?

(Continued from page 1)

the need for maintenance could be reduced. In any event **all of the loose materials will have to be topped up annually and replaced from time to time.** All of these activities cost money and the budget commitment must be made at the time of initial installation. **An EVERPLAY surface will provide for cleanliness, low maintenance and total accessibility,** however this could well be at a higher capital cost with the savings being in the future.

The selection of just any synthetic surface does not assure you that you will be able to combine the higher capital cost with future savings on maintenance resulting in a successful project with total costs being lower over time. If you are not careful in your surfacing selection, you may find your costs being beyond your expectation.

Protecting your investment in a synthetic surface will depend upon the questions you ask and the assurances and warranties you demand as part of your installation. To assist you and hopefully save money in the long term, we are providing you with some insight as to some of the critical components that can cause premature failure of the surface in its performance.

Remember that you are placing a 'protective surface' to absorb energy to the requirements of the ASTM F1292-95 as a minimum performance for the life of the surface not just the first few months after it has been installed.

In relation to all other loose 'protective surfaces' that consist of a single material installed to a certain depth, the **synthetic is a complex system consisting of special**

chemical binders, selected rubber crumb and installation techniques. Invariably these components for any system are proprietary to the supplier of the system. For this reason specifying a surface by name, for nothing less than a benchmark expectation, may be your first level of protection.

The chemistry of the surface is very important for a number of reasons. First it must be a polyurethane and contain **no latex**, due to the possible **allergies to latex.** Second the **polyurethane** must have a component that will allow it to **stretch and let the rubber granules move** in relation to one another at the time of installation and over the long-run. This is provided by a **TDI** that has not been 'stripped' of its free monomer. For long term **strength, durability and rigidity** to accommodate the anticipated traffic, a portion of the polyurethane must be **MDI.** A polyurethane that contains **only MDI** or an MDI with little TDI or a stripped TDI will get **rigid over time** and reduce the impact absorbing performance of the surface, **detrimentally affecting the resilience of the surface over time in relation to the standard** and cause the need for replacement. You should request a statement as to how many years this particular formula has been used for playground surfaces. One way to assure yourself that the chemical has been formulated for applications as a 'protective surface' you should be receiving a certificate from the chemical supplier stating that the polyurethane has been formulated for this purpose and the polyurethane **manufacturer certifies that the polyurethane will not detrimentally affect the resilience of the surface over time in relation to the standard.** You may also wish to request a statement as to how many years this particular formulation has been utilized for this purpose.

Even though the function of the polyurethane

(Continued on page 3)

Will YOU Pay Twice ?

(Continued from page 2)

is very important to the system, precautions must be taken at the time of installation as the **vapours of both MDI and TDI are toxic until cured** and in most jurisdictions, Ontario for one, they belong to a group called designated substances. This means that the contractor must take certain precautions for the **protection of the installers** under the regulations provided for under the **labour laws**. You should make sure that these regulations are adhered to and **save yourself costs for worker injury** and should any **other employees or children** normally be in the area of the installation, they should be provided with organic vapours respirators or the better option, **kept away from the area** until the surface has cured. **Once the surface has cured** there will be **no toxicity** from the polyurethane. As an example it is likely that you are sleeping on a TDI polyurethane pillow at night, sitting on TDI polyurethane in your car or holding MDI polyurethane when you are on the telephone.

The **rubber crumb** used in the system must be carefully selected to allow the polyurethane to provide the performance required. This crumb must **not be larger than 4mm** in size in that a larger crumb will readily allow foreign materials to go in to the surface and **lessen the resilience**. In addition these larger granules are **very abrasive** to the child. A crumb in the size of 1-4mm will provide a smaller opening between the crumbs, while still providing good slip resistance in wet and dry conditions. There could well be circumstances where a smaller crumb size is desirable due to special requirements of a site. Be aware that this will change the properties

of the surface and must be tested that no loss of performance results. There are cases where a **shredded rubber** is used to provide for a **mechanical adhesion to enhance the lower quality of the binders** that can be utilized to save cost. These surfaces have a **very smooth texture** and will demonstrate a **lower degree of slip resistance** than the rubber crumb surfaces.

Installation procedures, numbers of layers in the system, cure times between layers and the techniques utilized will have an affect on the final product and the ability of the surface to perform as an impact absorbing surface. The quality of the installer effects the consistency and cleanliness of the installation.

The standard for playground surfacing, **ASTM F1292-95**, provides for the surface to **meet the performance standard 'when tested'**, which means **at any time during the life** of the play environment. There are test instruments and independent organizations capable of performing **site tests** according to the requirement of the standard. Any **warranty for a synthetic surface** should not only cover the **durability** of the surface, but also that it will **meet the criteria of the standard** at the end of the warranty period, with an expectation that this performance will continue into the future.

EVERPLAY is providing you with a quotation request sheet on the back page of this News Letter.

You should copy this form onto your letterhead and require that everyone making a proposal to you, provide their quotation to you on this form. This will ensure you that you will be receiving the same performance in the surface as well as the required warranties and certificates from the installer and chemical suppliers. Only with this requirement will you be able to know that you are getting the best value for your money for a very technically complex product. At EVERPLAY, we believe that the client deserves the best product for today, tomorrow and into the future.

Universal Quote Sheet

Place your letterhead here
having the supplier of a rubberized surface submit on this form will allow for true comparison

Quotation For Rubberized 'Protective' Surface

Date: _____

Proponents are asked to fill in the appropriate locations confirming compliance and/or conformance to the statement and the cost of the work described.

Removal of:	old play structure	\$ _____
	◇ old edging or curbs	\$ _____
	◇ old protective surfaces	\$ _____
Preparation and installation of:	- compacted granular base	\$ _____
	- new curbing	\$ _____

Supply and installation of the rubberized play surface for a performance criteria of Gmax less than 161 and HIC less than 950 from the maximum accessible points (i.e. tops of railings) when site tested 10 to 25 days after installation.
Approximate total area _____ M²

\$ _____

Total cost before taxes

\$ _____

gst

\$ _____

Total cost

\$ _____

Colour of the Rubberized Surface to be installed _____

The rubberized surface installed under this quotation will be warranted to a period of 3 years for materials and workmanship and covers the surface for wear through, cracking, deterioration and that the surface will remain resilient for the warranty period to provide for the performance required by the ASTM F1292-95 for the fall heights and locations initially tested. Damage as a result of vandalism will not be covered.

The rubberized surface installer will provide a certificate from the manufacturer of the polyurethane binders stating that the binders employed are suitable for the application of playground surfacing and will remain stable and resilient for the warranty period.

The rubberized surface installer will provide a certificate that the installed surface meets the dimensional requirements of the CSA Z614-M90 standard for Play Spaces for protective surfaces.

The rubberized surface installer will provide a maintenance procedure for the installed surface.

Quotation valid for _____ days

Signature _____, Name: _____ Title: _____

Company _____

Address _____ City _____ Prov. _____

Postal _____ Phone _____ Fax _____