

Installation and Maintenance Instructions for Play Ground Mulch

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE INSTALLATION, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ALL RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES WILL RESULT IN A NON CONFORMING CERTIFIED PLAY GROUND SURFACE

General Guidelines

- 1.) Clean the playground area thoroughly. Remove any old playground mulch, trash, stumps, stones or other obstructions that could cause injury to a child in the event of a fall. Use rakes, shovels and other tools to clean the area. **Excavate the existing certified material if the existing certified material was not from Dan Como and Sons, Inc. Material is only considered certified if you (a) lay it 12" thick and (b) if you received all your material from Dan Como and Sons. Topping off another manufacturer's certified wood fiber is not acceptable, and will result in a non conforming certified play ground surface.**
- 2.) Outline the perimeter of the playground with suitable landscape edging. This edging will help to keep the mulch in place and limit the amount of mulch spread around by running children, wind and rain. If the edging extends more than one or two inches above the ground, dig a trench and inter the timbers to limit their size; this will help to prevent tripping.
- 3.) Install landscape fabric under the playground area; hold it in place with sandbags if necessary to prevent it from blowing away before you can install the mulch. This barrier will prevent the growth of grass and weeds in the playground area, and will also make maintenance and replacing the mulch easier.
- 4.) Add the mulch to the playground area and rake it into place. Install the material so that the depth is at least 12" or greater. Add more mulch to high traffic areas, such as underneath swings or at the exits to slides to allow for displacement.
- 5.) Maintain the depth of the mulch by raking mulch back into place over time. Do not allow the mulch to go below the required safety depth, as you will risk serious injury to those playing on the playground.

A NOTE ON SAFETY: We manufacture our playground mix from virgin wood, ensuring that no metal products or harmful materials contaminate our material. To ensure the safest playground area, it is critical that our mix is spread to proper depth recommendations specified by the International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) – ASTM F1292 [Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surface Systems Under and Around Playgroup Equipment] and ASTM F2075 Sections 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 [Standard Specification for Engineered Wood Fiber for Use as a Playground Safety Surface Under and Around Playgroup Equipment]. The depth/amount of mix installed is based on the potential height of a fall. Installation Guide

Dan Como and Sons, Inc. recommends using the service of a certified engineer or a landscape architect who is familiar with the local soil and climatic conditions to evaluate the information provided, especially as it relates to drainage. To prolong the life of Engineered Wood Fiber, here on out known as EWF, a drainage system is recommended. However, we do not dictate how extensive your drainage systems should be to be effective.

Dan Como and Sons, Inc. assumes no responsibility for determining the size of the playground or the safety zone between the equipment and the border. An installer must thoroughly examine the site, specification, and carefully check the dimensions before starting work.

Installation: In Ground / Above Ground

-Excavate the area 12 inches (recommended 12 inch depth for certification to apply) with a grade that ensures proper drainage. The most effective drainage may be to carry all water outside of the play area.

-Install retaining border.

-The area should be well compacted and accurately graded, especially in areas where additional fill has been brought in.

-Install playground equipment.

-Install the EWF to the proper depth (12 inch minimum). EWF is delivered in bulk form with dump trucks. Mulch can be staged in one location and moved into the play area or, when possible, dumped straight into the play area.

-A bobcat or a small front-end loader may be used to spread surfacing, however it will also be necessary to spread manually. Please note the surfacing will be several inches above grade until it is compacted. EWF needs to be compacted in order to be accessible to all. This may be achieved by using a compactor in the initial installation.

-Dan Como and Sons, Inc. also recommends installation of rubber mats in excessive wear zones, such as, slide exits, under swings and sliding poles. The rubber mats should be placed on top of 6 inches of surfacing material with the remainder of the 6 inches covering the mat.

-Level the EWF by hand raking the surface areas. After two weeks of active use, the surface must be raked again.

-Periodic adjustments of the mats in the excessive use zones will help control displacement in these high use zones. Wetting down the initial load will help with compaction.

WARNING: Failure to maintain Playground Mulch at the initial installation depth (12 inches) may result in an injury.

Dan Como and Sons, Inc.'s Engineered Wood Fiber is tested through TUV SUD America, Incorporated for the "Critical Fall Height" rating in compliance with ASTM F1292 for this type of surfacing material. The use of EWF should be based on the findings of a certified engineer or landscape architect. You can obtain a copy of our rating for "Critical Fall Height" test results by contacting our office at (973) 263-0440 or emailing mulchdepotnj@gmail.com

WARNING Please sign and return this portion with all information filled out, or your certification is not valid.

All Location Data must contain Name, Address, Date, and Amount installed

NAME of FACILITY & Location on Property : _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE: _____ Amount Installed _____

DATE: _____

X _____ PRINT NAME _____

I hereby certify by signing above that I am in receipt of the instructions, and will adhere to the installation instructions required for the material to qualify as a certified product, that meets ASTM F2075-15 & ASTM F1292-13. I am aware that if I fail to follow the instructions I am liable for failing to follow the installation guidelines, in turn making the product uncertified.

Dan Como and Sons, Inc. is a member of IPEMA, the International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association whose mission is to provide creative, fun, and safe play environments of children. To verify product certification, visit www.ipema.org

Obtaining your Certificate of Product Certification

- 1- Visit www.ipema.org
- 2- On the top menu bar select 'Certification' -> 'Generate Certificate'
- 3- Select "Dan Como and Sons, Inc." under Manufacturer drop-down
- 4- Click the check box next to 'Certified Playground Mulch (2401)
- 5- After you select the product a box appears in the top right of the section...Click There
- 6- A Pop-Up appears....fill out all info requested
 - *For the 'Project' section please include the name of the facility and the address...and be sure that it is the same address you provided us for our records.
- 7- Click Generate and check your email for the certificate.

Please make sure that the 'Project' information matches the location where you installed the EWF, and is the location you provided us for our system when you ordered.

All installations and sales are tracked by Dan Como and Sons, Inc. If you do not provide us with the correct & detailed installation location your product will not meet Certification requirements.

Maintenance Guidelines

Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF), or Playground Mulch, requires maintenance to ensure surfacing levels never drop below the proper recommended level of 12 inches. The proper level of EWF must be maintained in order to ensure the product does what it is designed to do and ensure warranty validation.

******PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IF YOU USE ANOTHER MANUFACTURER'S PRODUCT TO TOP OFF OUR EWF THE WHOLE PLAYGROUND SURFACE WILL BE NON CONFORMING TO ASTM STANDARDS. ALSO IF YOU USE OUR PRODUCT TO MAINTAIN OR TOP OFF AN EXISTING PLAYGROUND THAT DID NOT INITIALLY HAVE OUR EWF INSTALLED WILL ALSO MAKE THE SURFACE NON CONFORMING TO ASTM STANDARDS. ******

The perimeter of the playground should provide adequate containment and the playground area should have the proper drainage for the EWF, as recommended by your landscape architect and/or engineer.

-Daily visual inspection should be performed to check for foreign debris such as rocks, broken glass and other trash. These items must to be removed.

-Daily visual inspection should be performed to check for EWF depth. A depth of 12 inches must be maintained for warranty validation. Redistribute and/or top off EWF as needed. Regular topping off of EWF should be performed every 1 to 3 years depending on use of playground.

-High impact areas may need more frequent inspections and redistribution of the EWF. Inspection of wear mats should be performed to check for wear, tear, and dislocation.

-Daily visual inspection of drainage is needed to maintain proper drainage. Check for blockage by foreign debris and/or ice. Without proper drainage ice will form and Playground Mulch will freeze in temperatures below freezing. If this happens Playground Mulch will no longer function as a protective surface. The play area should be closed down for use and not reopened until temperatures rise above freezing. **WARNING:** Life threatening injuries may occur when a child falls onto the frozen surface.

-Due to the wind, birds, other animals, and normal tracking weed growth may occur. If this occurs hand pulling of weeds maybe necessary and/or an environmentally approved weed killer maybe used (check with product manufacture for approved use around children).

WARNING: Incorrect installation, lack of maintenance, improper use with other material not designed as EWF, and/or mixing of materials could result in serious injury or death.

WARNING: No Engineered Wood Fiber or Playground Mulch surfacing can prevent all accidents or injuries.