



QUABOING® OFFERS “TAKE 5” CHECKLIST FOR PUBLIC PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Experts Recommend Caregivers “Take 5” Minutes to Review Simple Checklist

Contact: Anne Tommasi
Tommasi PR, 603-893-5878
atommasi@comcast.net

N. BROOKFIELD, MASS. (March 4, 2009) — Sally Geldard, outdoor specialist for Quabaug Corporation, today announced a five point checklist to promote public playground safety for the upcoming spring and summer months. Sponsored by Quabaug, manufacturer of QuaBoing - high quality, impact-absorbing rubber surfacing material - the list encourages caregivers to “Take Five” when entering a playground.

“We recommend taking five minutes to perform five quick checks for improved safety,” said Geldard. “Outdoor play is crucial to children’s physical health and social development. And, with this simple tool, we hope to reduce the number of injuries associated with playground equipment for 2009,” she added.

Each year more than 200,000 children visit US hospital emergency rooms with injuries associated with playground equipment. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground.

QuaBoing resilient rubber tiles and loose surfacing are versatile, long lasting, low maintenance solutions providing a cushioned surface for safety under foot. They remain the surface of choice for many playgrounds. Unlike surfacing made from recycled tires, QuaBoing is fire resisting, does not contain sharp shredded steel, debris, or other harmful materials. The product is easy to install and is non-marking.

“Supplying this check list underscores our commitment to providing product that ensures the safest play areas available for children,” concluded Geldard.

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Five Quick Tips for Public Playground Safety

1. Make sure surfaces around playground equipment feature mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials or have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel.
2. Prevent burns on hot metal playground equipment. Check the temperature of steel decks, slides and steps. In direct sunlight, they may reach temperatures high enough to cause serious contact burns in seconds.
3. Examine equipment for sharp points or edges to avoid scratches and cuts.
4. Check for separate play areas for ages 2 – 5 and 5 – 12 years old. And make sure that elevated surfaces in each play area, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.
5. Look for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and large rocks.

About Quabaug Corporation

Located in North Brookfield, Massachusetts, Quabaug Corporation employs 300 people and manufacturers Vibram® shoe soles and pet products. Vibram is a registered trademark of Vibram S.p.A. of Italy. Quabaug Corporation is the North America manufacturer of Vibram products under exclusive license. QuaBoing is a registered trademark of Quabaug Corporation. Companies interested in distributing QuaBoing can contact Sally Geldard at 800-325-5022 ext. 125 or geldards@vibram.us. For further product information visit www.quaboing.com