



Playground Safety Surfacing Aggregate Subsurface Basic Specification

1. Evaluate existing drainage. If the installation area is lower than the adjacent grades and tends to collect water or if there is standing water on the subsurface, a subsurface water management system must be installed.
2. Remove topsoil until solid, packed and stable subsoil is visible and level.
3. Install 4" of aggregate. Aggregate should be state DOT road base or equivalent such as "crush and run". Aggregate shall consist of crushed rock composed of hard, fractured fragments free of clay coatings. Aggregate shall be produced from bed rock gravel, cobbles or boulders of uniform quality. Aggregate may also contain a blend or combination of crushed gravel, sand and fines.
4. Slope subsurface 2% in order to ensure adequate water drainage.
5. It is critical that the subsurface be properly compacted. Without adequate subsurface compaction, the planarity of playground safety surface will change as the subsurface planarity changes. Use a vibrating compactor to reach 95% standard proctor density. Complete multiple passes in both directions. Compaction can be assisted by soaking aggregate with water. Once aggregate has been compacted, a compaction test is recommended.
6. Level subsurface aggregate to +/- 1/4" over 10' measured in any direction. The aggregate will likely have a size ranging from fines to 3/4". If there is difficulty in getting the subsurface smooth enough due to the larger pieces contained in the mix, install 1/4" minus granite screenings or "chips and dust" over the final compacted and leveled subsurface. This material is used to fill in the undulations in planarity of the compacted aggregate. Compact material as stated above.
7. Inspect final compacted aggregate base. It is important to carefully inspect any subsurface supplied by an outside contractor. Often Owner assumes that installing the playground safety surfacing over the prepared subsurface indicates acceptance and responsibility for the subsurface. Installation over any type of subsurface is only an indication that the playground safety surfacing installer is satisfied with the planarity of the subsurface.