

IPEMA

INTERNATIONAL
PLAY EQUIPMENT
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Questions most frequently asked about Engineered Wood Fiber

1. What exactly is Engineered Wood Fiber?

Processed wood, ground to a fibrous consistency, randomly sized not typically over 2" in length, free of hazardous substances and meets ASTM F2075 standard for EWF.

2. Why not just install wood chips?

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) has determined that wood chips are not considered an accessible playground surface.

3. Why spend more for Engineered Wood Fiber?

Engineered Wood Fiber is manufactured specifically for use in playgrounds using raw materials that are typically free of twig and leaf material.

4. How long does Engineered Wood Fiber last?

Engineered wood fiber will maintain its cushioning properties for the life of the playground, provided the depth is maintained by occasional top-offs. EWF does not decompose as mulch does.

5. How do I know that Engineered Wood Fiber meets safety standards?

Engineered Wood Fiber has been tested in accordance with ASTM F1292 impact tests, ASTM F2075 for purity and quality, and ASTM F1951 for accessibility. EWF meets or exceeds ASTM Standards and CPSC guidelines. Ask your manufacturer for test results.

6. Is Engineered Wood Fiber accessible?

Engineered Wood Fiber meets the specifications of the ASTM F1951 Standard for Accessibility according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), provided there is proper drainage, are installed correctly and appropriately maintained. See # 12.

7. Has burning been a problem?

No, burning has not been a problem. Flammability test results are available from your supplier upon request.

8. What if broken glass falls on the wood fiber surface?

Broken glass and debris typically stay on top of Engineered Wood Fiber and are easily removed by raking.

9. Is Engineered Wood Fiber treated?

Engineered Wood Fiber is not chemically treated and is totally natural.

10. What contains the Engineered Wood Fiber?

You can border EWF with playground borders or landscape timbers for an aboveground installation or excavate to have the play area flush with the surrounding land.

11. Aren't insects a problem with wood?

No. Typically, insects such as termites prefer larger pieces of wood to bore into. After thousands of installations nationwide, Engineered Wood Fiber neither attracts or repels insects.

12. How is Engineered Wood Fiber maintained?

Occasional raking and tamping, as usage dictates is necessary to keep the play area in good condition. According to usage, climate and the condition of the drainage system below, the surface will need to be topped off with fresh EWF periodically. Accessories like wear mats are available for high use areas to help maintain accessibility and limit maintenance. See IPEMA's positional statement for installation recommendations—click here: www.ipema.org-installation-recommendations-for-EWF.

13. What about splinters?

Splinters normally occur when contact is made with fixed or rigid wood surfaces. Engineered wood fiber tends to give or move upon contact so splinters are not a problem.

14. What if children eat it?

Engineered Wood Fiber is an all-natural wood product and not chemically treated in any way.



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15. What is the dark brown water that sometimes appears from underneath the EWF after the first rain shower?

The dark water is actually nature's preservative in the wood called tannins and is harmless to humans. The tannins will eventually dissipate after rain washes them off the wood.

16. Can Engineered Wood Fiber become a litter box for animals?

No. Once the Engineered Wood Fiber has been installed and settled, it will knit together forming a uniform surface.

17. Why is drainage necessary for my Engineered Wood Fiber surface?

A proper drainage system will not only help slow the decay rate of the EWF surface but will also help keep the surface more resilient during colder weather.

18. What about fungus or mold that can occur on the EWF surface?

Nuisance molds are a natural occurrence as wood decomposes and may develop on the surface of EWF in wet weather and temperatures are $>35^{\circ}$. Once the EWF dries out, the molds go away. A good way to keep your EWF dry is to install a working drainage system below the surface. Direct sunlight will also help. To get rid of the mold, carefully remove present mold and apply a mixture of HD laundry detergent and water (1:3) to the surface. Several applications may be necessary.

19. Should I rototill my Engineered Wood Fiber surface periodically?

No. Engineered Wood Fiber is impact tested in a compacted state which is not only resilient but accessible for those with disabilities. To keep your EWF surface safe and accessible, top off as needed and do not rototill your EWF surfacing.