Playground Installation Checklist

You’ve purchased a beautiful and safe playset for your kids. Now for the installation. The Rooster has consolidated installation lessons-learned over the years and summarized them below. Enjoy!

# Site prep…

# The month before

[ ]  Layout your playset footprint on grid paper according to the manufacturer's diagram.

[ ]  Check the grade of your yard so the playset has good drainage (at least 2” per 10’).

[ ]  Orient the playset to avoid tree roots, retaining walls, in ground sprinklers and other hazards.

[ ]  Allow at least a 3’ buffer around the playset so the kids can navigate around the equipment.

[ ]  Avoid getting too close to fence gates or places that need to be maintained with a mower.

[ ]  Plan access to the site and allow for at least 6’ (gates, fences, landscape, neighbor property).

[ ]  Plan the type of surface for your play area (rubber mulch, wood mulch, grass, artificial turf). See <https://www.roosterrubber.com/homeowners> for downloadable manuals.

[ ]  Plan the type of borders for your play area (rubber timbers, plastic 8”, wood). See <https://www.roosterrubber.com/borders> for ideas.

[ ]  Call Rooster Rubber at 816-241-6400 for a quote on materials, installation, or both.

[ ]  Calculate the quantity of rubber mulch, weed barrier and borders at the Rooster’s **mulch calculator**: <https://www.roosterrubber.com/>

[ ]  Order materials several weeks ahead of time so any special items can be acquired.

# The week before installation

[ ]  Order and stage materials (borders, surfacing, weed barrier, etc.) at the site.

[ ]  Confirm install date with crew.

[ ]  Plan to be available so issues can be addressed promptly.

[ ]  Review installation diagram with installation lead, especially access to the site.

[ ]

[ ]

# Installation - Site Prep

[ ]  Layout the borders according to your diagram (use string and stakes to keep a straight line).

[ ]  Tack down, but only enough to keep in position and allow the weed barrier to slide underneath.

# Weed barrier-

[ ]  Start on the lowest part of the project area and lay down the 1st strip of barrier.

[ ]  Secure strip to ground with 6” sod staples (3 per square yard, except seams, which are every 15”).

[ ]  Secure the first strip. Then overlap the next strip by 6” or so, like how roof shingles are arranged.

[ ]  IMPORTANT! Try to achieve the tightest, smoothest surface as possible (see attached picture).

[ ]  Extend the barrier underneath the borders.

# Borders -

[ ]  Secure the borders once the weed barrier is down.

[ ]  Leave an opening so you can maneuver wheelbarrows or other equipment inside the area.

# Rubber mulch installation…

# With lifting equipment:

[ ]  Lift the sack using the stirrups on the top.

[ ]  Position in area where it can be raked out (1 sack per 214 sq ft - 4”; 285 sq ft – 3”).

[ ]  To open a sack, make 2 vertical slits – 1 on each of 2 sides. Then make horizontal slit near the bottom on those same 2 sides.

[ ]  Warning: stand back about 3 feet from the sack when making the final cut. The mulch will exit under pressure.

[ ]  Rake out until level.

[ ]  Move borders back and secure to the ground.

[ ]  With garden hose, spray the mulch down to wash paint dust off.

# With manual equipment:

[ ]  Slit sack open – stand back about 3’ so mulch has room to spill out.

[ ]  Shovel into wheelbarrow and move to the project site.

[ ]  Rake out until level.

[ ]  Move borders back and secure to the ground.

[ ]  With garden hose, spray the mulch down to wash paint dust off.

# Materials needed

[ ]  Rubber mulch – Black, Brown, Redwood, Green, Blue

[ ]  Depth (3” for Residential, 6” Public, 2” Landscape)

[ ]  Weed barrier & staples (12.5’ and 15’ width rolls).

[ ]  Borders -protect your investment (Recycled plastic 4’x 8”/12”; Rubber timbers (6” x 92”; black, brown, red).

[ ]  Mats for swings, slides, monkey bars (4’x 6’; 3’ x 3’; 2’ x 3’).

[ ]  Installation (call 816-241-6400 for site visit).

[ ]  Delivery (you can pick up but let us deliver and save the wear and tear on you and the vehicle).

# Site drainage tips.

[ ]  1-2% grade provides sufficient drainage.

[ ]  For larger sites, consider a French drain.

# A swing set in a playground  Description automatically generated with low confidenceA picture containing transport, power shovel  Description automatically generatedExamples of proper weed barrier installation.