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.