

Maintenance Instructions

FibarPIP Poured-In-Place Rubber Surface

It is very important to maintain your FibarPIP poured-in-place surface in order for the surface to perform as intended for both impact attenuation and durability. The end-user should develop a comprehensive maintenance program and a written guide for their trained staff to follow. This applies to both equipment and surfacing maintenance. The National Parks & Recreation Association (NRPA) offers a two-day [Playground Maintenance Program](#) to train front-line maintenance staff to identify and correct playground safety issues. All playground maintenance staff should complete this program. Information about the program can be found at www.nrpa.org/certification/CPSI/.

Please find below the steps to follow to properly maintain your FibarPIP playground surface.

Debris in the EPDM Top Surface

Keeping the surface clean of debris is critical in maintaining the product. Sand, dirt, organic material (leaves, twigs, etc.), and gum are only a few examples of items which must be cleaned from the surface. If not removed, these particles can work their way into the top EPDM surface, which can severely reduce or eliminate the impact attenuation properties of the surface.



If the impact attenuation changes due to these contaminants, serious injury or death can occur, and the playground should not be used until the surface is cleaned and the particles removed.

Drainage Effect of Debris in the EPDM top Surface

If these contaminants are allowed to accumulate in the EPDM top surface, drainage can also be affected. FibarPIP is a porous system that allows water to flow through the top and bottom rubber surfaces. If those drainage channels are clogged, the surface may not drain properly and retain water.



If the surface does not drain, water may damage the properties of the rubber binding agents, and may lead to cracking in the EPDM top surface. If the surface retains water, the impact attenuation may be severely reduced or eliminated possibly causing serious injury or death. The playground should not be used until the surface is cleaned and draining properly.

Frequency of Cleaning

Establishing a Maintenance Plan for your FibarPIP surface is critical to preserving the effectiveness of the surface. It is recommended that a regular, periodic system to remove debris be established. **We recommend cleaning the surface every two weeks**, at a minimum. More frequent cleaning will be necessary for heavily used playgrounds or for playgrounds that have a combination of surfaces such as sand or Engineered Wood Fiber.

Effective Methods of Cleaning Debris

- Vacuum the surface by using a lawn vacuum or similar device. This will clear the permeable openings in the EPDM top surface. This is the preferred method of cleaning the surface.
- Using a Leaf Blower - Blowing the EPDM top surface with a leaf blower can also be used effectively.
- Close visual inspection is then necessary to ensure that all particles have been removed. Repeat vacuum or blowing procedure until the surface has been totally cleared of all particles.



IMPORTANT: We do not recommend sweeping the surface as it could cause the debris particles to work their way into the EPDM top surface, which could cause more damage to the surface.

Cleaning the EPDM Top Surface After Debris Removal

Periodic cleaning of the EPDM top surface will preserve the appearance of the playground surface. As with any surface, having a routine cleaning schedule is important. Always follow Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any cleaning products used.

Choosing the correct cleaning product

Using the correct cleaning product is an important aspect of cleaning the playground surface. Here is a partial list of items to be cleaned and the recommended cleaning agent for each.*

- Bird droppings or other excrement — Do not attempt to loosen any dry excrement that is stuck to the surfacing; this could cause disease-causing fungus in the deposition to become airborne. Wear disposable gloves. Remove any loose excrement. Scrub deposits with a damp cloth using Bon Ami™, Borax™ or STPP, and then wash with a Borax™ or Sodium Tripolyphosphate (STPP) solution. Soak up residue with disposable rags. Disinfect by spraying on hydrogen peroxide (3% solution), and let stand for at least two minutes, then spraying again with vinegar (5% acid), and let stand for at least two minutes. (Do not mix these together; spray separately for best results.) Soak up residue with disposable rags. Double rinse with clean water.
- Blood — Wear disposable gloves. Remove and disinfect by spraying on hydrogen peroxide and let stand for at least two minutes, then spraying again with vinegar and let stand for an additional two minutes. Soak up residue with disposable rags. Double-rinse with clean water.
- Chewing gum — Apply dry ice (regular ice isn't as effective) to freeze the gum and lightly scrape it from the surface to remove it.
- Gasoline — Wash with a liquid detergent and water. Soak up with disposable rags. Double-rinse with clean water.

- Grass stains — Apply orange oil cleaner, such as Citra-Solv. Work in and soak up with disposable rags. Double-rinse with clean water.
- Moss / Algae / Mildew / Mold — Saturate with hydrogen peroxide (3%) and let stand for at least five minutes. Repeat process using white vinegar. Soak up with disposable rags. Double-rinse with clean water.
- Scuff marks — Scrub with dampened Bon Ami™, Borax™, or STPP. Double-rinse with clean water.
- Soda or juice — Saturate with Formula 407™. Work in product; soak up with disposable rags. Then wash with a liquid detergent, Borax™ or STPP solution. Double-rinse with clean water.
- Tar / crayon / lipstick / tree sap / motor oil / grease — Apply one or more of the following: orange oil cleaner, Goop™, or Formula 407™. Work in and soak up with disposable rags. Then sprinkle and scrub with Bon Ami™ cleanser, Borax™ or STPP. Double-rinse with clean water.
- Urine / vomit / nasal discharge — Using disposable gloves, wash with a Borax™ or STPP solution. Soak up residue with disposable rags. Disinfect by spraying on hydrogen peroxide (3%), and let stand for at least two minutes, then spraying again with vinegar, and let stand for an additional two minutes. Do not mix these together; spray separately for best results. Soak up residue with disposable rags. Double-rinse with clean water.

Avoid harmful solvents and cleaning products

The following are effective cleaning agents, but they are **not** recommended on FibarPIP safety surface. They may be detrimental to the surfacing because, over time, they could break down the polyurethane binding component and may lead to de-plasticization of the EPDM rubber. Most cleaning agents are not environmentally friendly. Some also change the appearance of the cleaned area compared to the rest of the surface, or make the surface very slippery. Products to avoid are: **Acetate, Ammonia, Benzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, Chlorine Bleach, Glycerin, Lighter Fluid, Mineral Spirits, Naphtha, Petroleum Distillates, Turpentine, WD40, Petroleum Jelly.**

Maintenance for Snow, Ice and Winter Conditions

To remove ice or snow, Calcium Chloride is an acceptable solution. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper use.



Winter Conditions. Should there be moisture retention in the FibarPIP, it will freeze if the temperature drops below the freezing mark. Please check your surface frequently in winter weather. When the surface is frozen, the impact attenuation properties of the FibarPIP are lost, and for this reason, the play area should not be used.

*The information provided here is taken from Maintaining Safe Play, the course manual of the National Playground Safety Institute Playground Maintenance Service Program. Information about this program can be found at www.nrpa.org/cerfication/CPSI/.