

Accessible Playground Surfacing

Providing a playspace that is accessible to children of varying abilities is a laudable goal. At the present time the CSA Z614-98 standard for Children's Playspaces and Equipment does not deal with this issue. As a result we must look to the United States where ASTM has developed a performance standard for the determination of an appropriate surface for this purpose. This standard, previously known as ASTM PS-83, has now been republished as ASTM F1951.

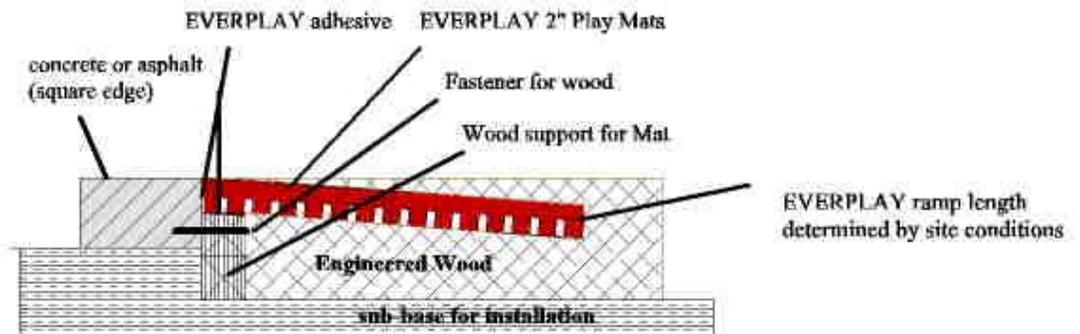
The traditional accessible surface has been the synthetic such as the EVERPLAY poured in place or EVERPLAY mats systems. These surfaces allow for persons of all abilities access to the play structure and as well meet the impact attenuation required for the surface. In addition the EVERPLAY can be installed at a slope to allow for transition from one grade to another. The alternative to the total EVERPLAY surface is one consisting of Engineered Wood and EVERPLAY Mats in the high traffic and high maintenance areas. These Mats are permeable to air and water. This allows for the transpiration of moisture and does not allow for rodents and insects to build a habitat as can happen with solid mats.

The ASTM F1951 relates specifically to passage across the play surface of a wheelchair. At the present time the test is only performed at one location in California and manufacturers of surfaces must submit their materials there for testing. Although the test can be performed on any play surface, the typical surfaces being tested are loose fill materials and are primarily Engineered Wood systems. Traditional surface materials such as sand or pea gravel will not pass this test and are therefore eliminated from use as an accessible surface.

The Engineered Wood systems that have passed the ASTM F1951 are manufactured specifically to meet the performance of the standard. Not all wood mulch or chip systems will comply with ASTM F1951. As a result, it is important that the supplier of the surface for an accessible playground be able to provide a certificate of compliance. There will always be areas where high traffic dislodges the wood system. These areas require regular maintenance to fill and smooth the surface to be passable. The solution for these areas is the EVERPLAY Play Mats bonded together to provide a 2' x 4' or 4' x 4' rubberized, maintenance free surface. The 4' dimension is very important in that it allows for sure footing for an adult and a wheelchair beside each other.

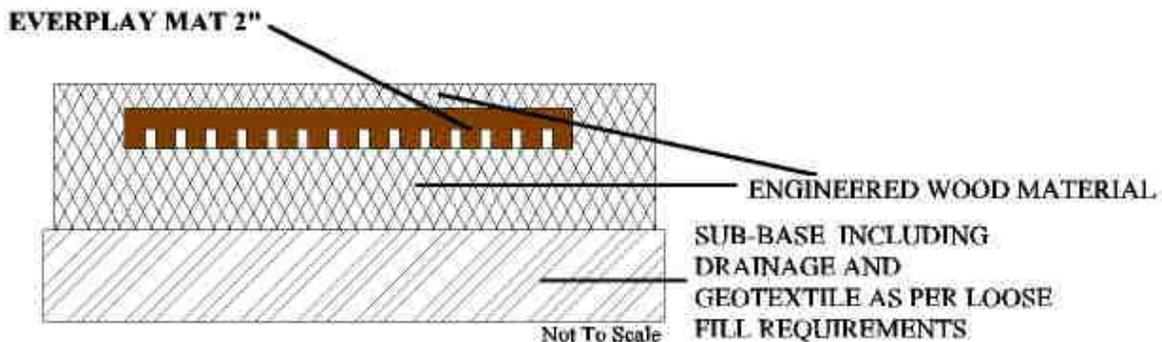
The highest traffic area of an accessible playspace will be the junction of where the hard surface terminates at the protective surface. A ramp must be installed into the Engineered Wood system to allow for a smooth transition of travel from the hard surface on the wood surface. Ramps of concrete might work where there is sufficient space to keep the concrete outside the 6' distance from the play structure, however this is not always the case. Any concrete within the protective surface area for the play structure will be a hazard. An EVERPLAY Transition Ramp can be installed to provide an accessible route that can extend into the protective surface area. The minimum width of the ramp is 60" to allow for the passage of two wheelchairs. The Transition Ramp extends a minimum of 6', with no maximum, into the wood system at a maximum slope of 1:12. This will allow the mat to start flush with the walkway and extend to 6" below the wood system. An EVERPLAY Transition Ramp can be easily achieved using the EVERPLAY adhesive to bond the EVERPLAY Play Mats to form a continuous rubberized sheet. The EVERPLAY mats are fastened to the edge of the hard surface.

Transition Ramp for Engineered Wood Fiber



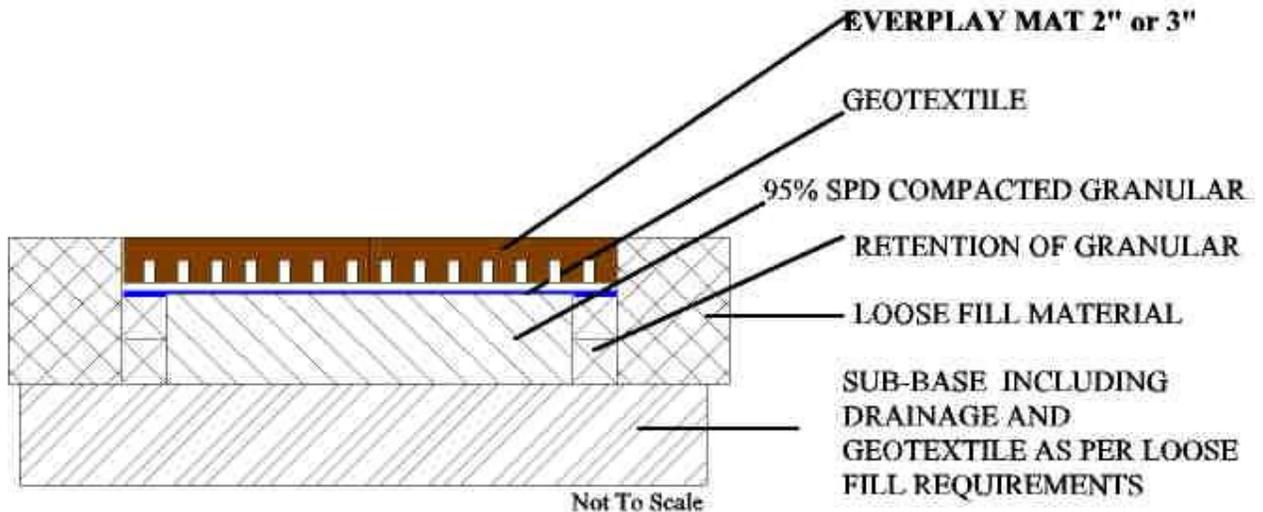
1. install or cut concrete or asphalt walk edge square
2. excavate entire playground to depth required for engineered wood fiber system
3. install stacked 4"x 4"x 4' wood with top to be 2" below final grade.
4. Fasten the wood to the concrete or asphalt
5. Install Engineered Wood Fiber to provide for sloped installation of the EVERPLAY 2" Play Mat ramp.
6. Install the EVERPLAY 2" Play Mat at the concrete edge making sure to apply the EVERPLAY adhesive to the edge of the mat and the concrete as well as the top of the timber support
7. Install the EVERPLAY Mats for the balance of the ramp by placing the adhesive along the sides of the mats and making sure the contact is maintained until the adhesive is cured (12-24 hours).
8. The EVERPLAY Transition ramp should be sloped into the playground
9. Place the balance of the Engineered Wood Fiber in the playground and to cover the EVERPLAY mat to create a smooth surface

EVERPLAY Mats in High Traffic areas for ENGINEERED Wood Fiber



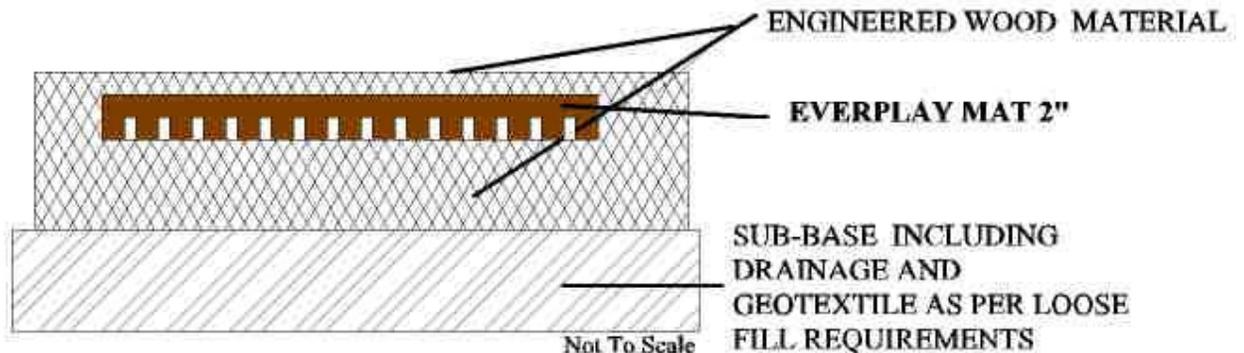
1. grade, level and prepare the sub-base including any geotextile and drainage as required
2. install loose fill materials to the specification of the loose fill material supplier to a depth 4" (100mm) below the final grade
3. place the EVERPLAY 2" Mat, bonding the mats to each other using EVERPLAY adhesive at the edges
4. allow the EVERPLAY mat to settle into the wood fiber (fill voids between legs with wood fiber)
5. install balance of loose fill materials to the specification of the loose fill material supplier

EVERPLAY Mats as access walk through Play Area



1. grade, level and prepare the sub-base including any geotextile and drainage as required
2. place the granular retention, recommended is wood timber, to the depth of the loose fill material
3. install and compact split granular with fines to 95% standard proctor density
4. place geotextile (Terrafix 200R) across the granular and across and down the retention
5. place the EVERPLAY Mat (thickness determined by critical height), bonding the mats to each other using EVERPLAY adhesive at the edges
6. install loose fill materials to the specification of the loose fill material supplier

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