

# ZEAGER NEWS

## Zeager feature job- Clarksburg Elementary playground

The folks at Montgomery county school district heard that proper installation techniques and accessories such as drainage and wear mats can help lower maintenance costs and increase the life span of their wood fiber surfacing but had yet to put this theory to test until recently. . .

Back in August of 2011, Montgomery county school department heads decided to put some of the theories about engineered wood fiber installation and accessories to test at an elementary school in Clarksburg, Md. The school's playground had major washout problems after hard rains and as a result, the surfacing was a constant challenge to maintain.



The Woodcarpet has remained firm, level and accessible even after heavy rain...



Drainage ditch and pipe installed at low end.

The playground turned out to be a perfect site to observe how spending money up front by doing it right the first time can save money in the long run. Upon our recent visit, one of the first things we noticed was that the surfacing was still at initial fill levels. This was due to the fact that workers had compacted the Woodcarpet in levels (wetting and compacting about 6" at a time) rather than installing it all at once and leaving the surface to compact naturally. This took 15% more wood fiber than normal but it left the surface firm, stable and very accessible. We spoke with the building services manager who mentioned that normally after heavy rains there would be major washout problems and the workers would have to rake and fill back in lost surfacing. Since the installation of the drainage system she has not had to do that.



Compacting the wood fiber with a track loader.



Zeager vinyl/foam wear mats installed at slide exit.

The final key that reduces maintenance was the installation of wear mats under the slide exits. Their unique design keeps the wood fiber in place beneath them and with the tapered edges it helps to keep the area at the slide exit accessible should a child with a disability need to traverse in and around that area. These mats are also anchored with Zeager's duckbill anchoring system that ensures the mats will stay in place.

If you are looking for more information on installation recommendations, drainage products or wear mats from Zeager go to [www.zeager.com](http://www.zeager.com).