

“THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAINAGE”

August 27, 1997

Zeager Hardwood Company
340 Butt Road
Franklin, Kentucky 42134
Attention: Ted Illjes

Dear Ted,

As a playground designer and safety inspector for over 25 years, I have seen many playgrounds with lots of problems. By far the biggest problem is insufficient safety surfacing. If safety surfacing exists, it is usually poorly installed and maintained. Unfortunately, even some new playgrounds are not being built with a good safety surfacing base.

A properly installed and maintained safety surface will be dry, slow to decompose, contained within its borders and safe. A good safety surface is a great asset to the overall success of a school curriculum. All children, including those with disabilities, need the opportunity to be outside on the playground. They need to breath the fresh air, to move their large muscles and use their loud voices or play quietly in an unstructured setting. Integrating free time with structured learning is essential, one will not work without the other.

A playground surface that is wet much of the time causes safety and maintenance problems as well as lack of accessibility. Wet Woodcarpet will decompose much more rapidly than well drained Woodcarpet thus requiring the owner /operator of the playground to spend more money than is necessary on replenishment. Over the years poorly drained, decomposed Woodcarpet will build up bringing the level of the sub-surface ever higher until eventually it needs to be dug out and completely replaced. Similarly greater and greater amounts of Woodcarpet will need to be added as a perennially wet, half decomposed subsurface will leech **its** wetness up into the new Woodcarpet. The shock absorbency of the Woodcarpet will be constantly undermined as the material decomposes from the ground up.

Any representative who does not direct their customer to install a complete Woodcarpet system including under drainage, geotextile fabric and Woodcarpet, is doing their customer a disservice in terms of playground access, maintenance problems, future costs and a compromised warranty, Thanks for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Caersar\Med, CPSI

President