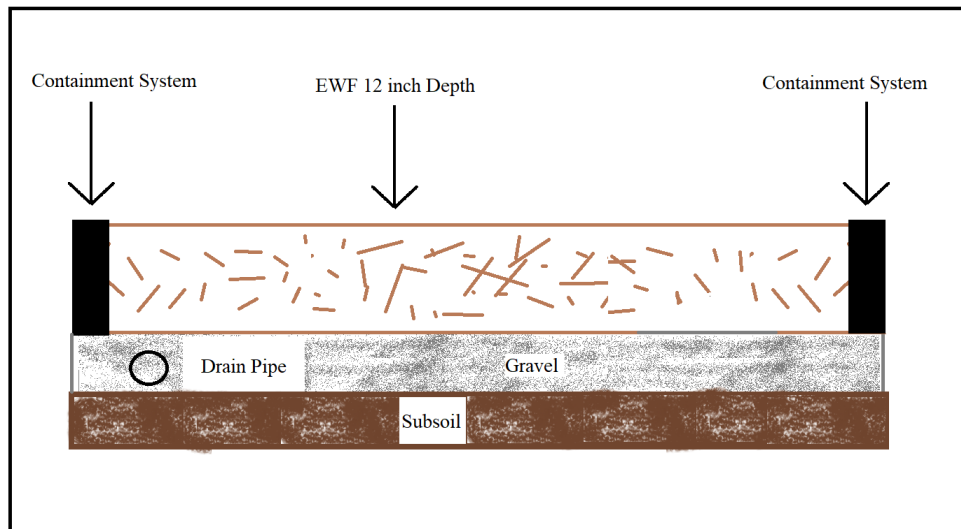


## Installation Procedure

1. Prepare the site in accordance with the project engineer's directions and project specifications. Remove all vegetation, rocks, roots, and other protrusions to bare soil. Grade and level the area so that it drains consistently and quickly after a rain. Do not use herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, or any other chemicals. Avoid using land that has been treated with chemicals in the past.
2. Install drainage as recommended by the manufacturer of the Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF). Different drainage systems are available. Drainage installation is recommended to increase the life of EWF, reduce mold and fungus issues, and help retain resiliency during cold temperatures.
3. Determine the depth of material needed. It is recommended to use 12” (twelve inch) compacted depth of EWF surfacing for all public play areas. "Compacted depth" takes into account the natural settling of EWF. Maximum practical impact attenuation is achieved with 12” (twelve inch) compacted depth of material, and this is the standard recommended for all public play areas. This is also referred to as 16 "straight" (non-compacted) depth.
4. In kick-out areas, such as swings and slides, install wear mats on top of the EWF to prevent holes and maintain a level surface. Be sure these mats are installed in such a way that they do not have an edge above the surface that will create an accessibility issue. Tapered edges are recommended.
5. Spread the playground surfacing evenly into the play area with shovels and rakes (or a blower) either on the prepared sand or soil, or into the laid-out geotextile. Make sure there are no thin, shallow places lacking in EWF, which would cause it to fall short of providing sufficient impact attenuation.

We do not recommend placing the EWF over any sort of asphalt or pavement area, and specifically caution against it. **We do recommend placing it upon sand, pea gravel, or properly prepared soil.** Spread the material to a uniform thickness to the appropriate depth.

6. Use only clean, chemical-free, grease-free wheelbarrows and tools when transporting the material. Do not use any pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides on the EWF, except under the care of a licensed, bonded, professional exterminator or horticulturalist who is fully aware that this is a play area used by children as compared to a landscape area. Products that may be generally accepted as safe for lawn and garden use may not be safe for playground use. **We do not endorse the use of any chemicals whatsoever on the Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF).**
7. The EWF should be contained within borders which meet safety standards designated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Railroad ties are not suitable, nor is any kind of lumber which has been treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA). A border is essential to keep the EWF in place and at its proper depth.



## **Maintenance Instructions**

1. Our EWF settles naturally into a stable play surface, but with use, the material will most likely shift around. We recommend weekly inspection and maintenance under high-traffic areas, such as slides and swings, to make sure that the material has not been kicked out or ground down in those places.
2. Wear mats designed specifically for use under playground structures are available through Enviro Mulch and can help to keep down material loss. Weekly inspection should also be done to remove any foreign objects from the play area. Fallen branches, toys, or other objects could get worked down into the EWF and present an unseen potential hazard if not removed. Rakes or shovels may be used to move additional material into any worn-down areas. Bags of EWF can be bought online at [EnviroMulchOnline.com](http://EnviroMulchOnline.com)
3. Rake the EWF to keep the surface level and the thickness to the original recommended depth. A level surface is necessary for wheelchair access and compliance with ADA requirements. Wear mats can reduce or eliminate the need to rake the EWF in high-traffic areas such as swings and slide exits. Be sure the transition between the wear mats and the EWF is level.
4. At accessible entrances onto the playground surface, ensure that the surface material, accessible route or the top of the access ramp is within  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the top of the play area border. An ADA compliant access ramp into the play area will help reduce maintenance in this area.
5. In the highest use areas and around equipment footers, dig down to the subsurface or drain system and measure the depth of the EWF. Ensure that the depth is sufficient for the fall height of the structure or at the manufacturer's original recommended depth, whichever one is greater. Add

EWF as necessary, level, wet and compact. The use of markings on the play structure supports or on the containment barriers is also recommended as a means to ensure depth of surface is kept to the original thickness.

6. Check the performance of the drain system by ensuring that water is flowing from a drain system outflow pipe immediately after rain. Also, make sure there is no standing water on the playground surface. It is important to have a functioning drainage system to improve EWF life expectancy and the resilience of the surfacing.
7. Depending upon climate and usage, the EWF may need to be “topped off” with fresh playground surfacing at any time. In arid climates, the material may maintain its depth and integrity even longer. To determine if a playground needs additional material, first rake or shovel it into an even surface, filling in the highest traffic areas such as under swings and slides. Measure the overall surface of the playground at several places, and if the overall depth is less than the recommended depth for its usage, then we recommend topping off the playground with additional EWF.
8. Determine how many inches short of the necessary depth that figure comes to, and that is the amount you need to add. Depending upon climate and drainage, under some circumstances when the material is frequently waterlogged, it may be necessary to remove the remaining material and completely replace it with fresh EWF. As a natural wood fiber, our playground surfacing will eventually decompose if left wet for long periods of time, and this factor is part of its natural life span. It remains a useful and wholesome product but no longer provides the impact attenuation necessary for playground use.