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Installation Instructions for 3xM Grinding and Compost's Engineered Wood Fiber

3xM Grinding and Compost, LLC (3xM) produces EWF for use as surfacing under and around playground equipment. For the material to be effective, the playground area must be properly designed and the material correctly installed. We recommend using the services of a certified engineer or a landscape architect who is familiar with the local soil and climatic conditions to evaluate the information provided, especially as it relates to drainage.

The following instructions are meant to be a guideline for installation of this material. Each user of this product is responsible for understanding the specific requirements of his/her application and for following the project engineer's directions including determining the size of the playground or the safety zone between the equipment and the border and for all the pre-work prior to installation of the EWF.

1. 3xM Grinding and Compost, LLC's EWF has been IPEMA Certified for ASTM F1292-impact attenuation with the use zone of the playground equipment, F2075 – sieve analysis, tramp metals and hazardous metals.
2. Prepare the site in accordance with the project engineer's directions and project specifications. In the event the EWF installer is not responsible for preparing the site, the installer should examine the site to verify it meets the specification of the engineer and carefully check the dimensions before starting work.
3. 3xM recommends that a drainage system is installed to increase the life of the EWF, reduce mold and fungus issues and help retain resiliency during cold weather. A simple drainage system is to start with a layer of landscaping fabric covered by a layer of gravel (generally 3" of gravel) and then a second layer of landscaping fabric. The EWF is placed over this drainage base. To insure proper drainage, the site should have a 1% - 2% slope, but an excessive slope (of 10% or more) will result in loss of material.



4. Borders are recommended to retain the material. Follow your project engineer's recommendation for borders. Installing one or more ADA ramps into the play area is recommended to allow an accessible entrance to and from the play area.
5. Once drainage is installed, install the EWF material. To provide protection for a 12 foot drop, 3xM recommends 12" of compacted material. To speed up the compaction process, install the

EWF in layers of 6" – 8" at a time. Rake, level, and wet the surface before compacting with a mechanical compactor after each layer is installed. Change direction 90 degrees between each layer. Repeat these steps until the desired surface thickness is achieved. If no mechanical compactor is used, install a minimum of 15" of material to allow for natural compaction (not recommended).

6. In kick-out areas, such as swings and slides, install wear mats on top of the EWF to prevent holes and to maintain a level surface. Be sure the mats are installed in a way as they do not have an edge above the surface that will create an accessibility issue. Tapered edges are recommended.

Note: this document is intended as a guideline to help a playground owner in making their playground a well-maintained and accessible area. It does not imply that an injury cannot occur. 3xM Grinding and Compost, LLC manufactures EWF for sale to professional playground material installers and distributors. For more information on the installation of your EWF, contact your installer.