

Provided by Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
	District	email	total types used in district	wood/ EWF	pea rock	poured /mats	rubber mulch	sand/ other	Any Mold?	Mold effected students health?	Any slivers?	Date of Response	Additional notes
1													
2	Ada-Borup	MichaelK@ada.k12.mn.	1	1								11-Mar	
3	Albany	gregjohnson@albany.k12.mn.	1		1							8-Apr	
4	Alexandria	jcritz@alexandria.k12.mn.	2		1	1						8-Apr	
5	Anoka-Hennepin	David.Law@anoka.k12.mn.	1	1					1			10-Apr	Occasional mold
6	Black Duck	sent through website	1		1							11-Mar	
7	Braham	kgagner@braham.k12.mn.	1	1								11-Mar	
8	Brandon-Evansville	mwestby@b-e.k12.mn.	1	1								14-Mar	
9	Brooklyn Center	cjchorek@brookcncr.k12.mn.	1	1								11-Mar	
10	Browerville	svedbraaten@browerville.k12.mn.	1	1								11-Mar	replenished every 3 years
11	Buffalo Lake-Hebron	rdoetsch@blh.k12.mn.	1	1								8-Apr	wood replaced often
12	Burnsville-Eagan	jgothard@isd191.org	1	1								8-Apr	
													rubber mulch is extremely expensive. Kids and weather compact the mulch down after a few weeks
13	Chisago Lakes	jthimm@isd2144.org	1	1								8-Apr	
14	Chisholm	jvaricha@chisholm.k12.mn.	3	1	1		1					8-Apr	prek-k rubber, 1-3 pea, 4-6 wood
15	Cloquet	kscarbro@isd94.org	1	1								8-Apr	
													some splinters from wood equip., but never from mulch
16	Columbia Heights	kellyk@colheights.k12.mn.	1	1								11-Mar	
17	Comfrey	khutchison@comfrey.k12.mn.	1	1								8-Apr	
													not happy with rubber mulch and parents are concerned. Considering poured rubber. Had wood previously with some mold issues.
18	Cook County	bschwarz@isd166.org	1				1					11-Apr	mats under some fall zones
19	Dover-Eyota	mikecarolan@deschool.k12.mn.	1	1								8-Apr	
20	Eden Valley-Walton	mmessman@eagles.edenvalley.k12.mn.	1		1							8-Apr	
21	Edgerton	kbuckridge@edgerton.k12.mn.	1		1							8-Apr	
													most are wood mulch or poured rubber, 1 rubber mulch
22	Edina	superintendent@edina.k12.mn.	3	1		1	1					11-Apr	

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23	Ely	kabrahamson@ely.k12.	1					1				8-Apr	neither mulch or rubber. No green space at this time
24	Fergus Falls	jness@fergusotters.org	1			1						8-Apr	
25	Fillmore Central	richard.keith@isd2198.	1		1							11-Mar	
26	Frazee-Vergas	tkarger@frazee.k12.mn	1		1							8-Apr	
27	Fulda	luther.onken@fps.mntr	1		1							11-Mar	
28	G.F.W.	Tami.Martin@gfwschoc	1				1					14-Mar	
29	Glenville-Emmo	reshetarj@geschools.cc	1		1							14-Mar	
30	Goodhue	mredmond@goodhue.k	1			1						14-Mar	Very happy with it. Nearly 3 years old and wearing very well.
31	Grand Meadow	jreshetar@gm.k12.mn.v	1		1							14-Mar	
32	Hastings	tcollins@hastings.k12.n	1	1								9-Apr	
33	Hawley	pjensen@hawley.k12.n	2	1			1					8-Apr	
34	Herman-Norcro	rbleichner@hncs.k12.m	1		1							22-Mar	
35	Hibbing	bradjohn@hibbing.k12.	1					1				8-Apr	
36	Hill City	dyocum@isd002.org	1					1				12-Mar	
37	Hills-Beaver Cre	t.holthaus@isd671.net	1		1							8-Apr	
38	Hinckley-Finlays	rprater@hf.k12.mn.us	1	1					1			14-Mar	Have had a few issues with mold and recycle regularly. Some concerned parents at first, but safety advisors feel it is fine.
39	Holdingford	chris.swenson@isd738.	1	1								8-Apr	tested 5 years ago for various types and levels of mold and met required standards
40	Hopkins	John Schultz, emailed th	3	1			1					18-Mar	4-poured rubber, 1 rubber tiles, 1 rubber mulch, 3 wood mulch. Rarely find mold. Try to maintain good drainage, no dogs allowed.
41	International Fa	kgrover@isd361.k12.mi	1	1								14-Mar	
42	Janesville-Waldr	badams@isd2835.org	1		1							8-Apr	
43	LaCrescent-Hok	kevin.cardille@isd300.k	2			1						8-Apr	
44	Lake City	eenger@lake-city.k12.n	1	1								14-Mar	
45	Lake Park-Audul	dhogie@lpa.k12.mn.us	1		1							14-Mar	

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46	Lake Superior	bcrandall@isd381.k12.r	1				1					9-Apr	donation request at Jamie's place of employment for auction items to get rubber chips removed to be ADA compliant. Looking to replace with poured rubber.
47	Lakeview	chrisfenske@lakeview2	2			1	1					15-Mar	previously has wood mulch currently looking at rubber surface
48	Lancaster	sswiontek@lancaster.k	1	1								15-Mar	
49	Lewiston-Altura	japse@lewalt.k12.mn.u	1	1								8-Apr	
50	M.A.C.C.R.A.Y.	koslofskyb@maccray.k1	1			1						8-Apr	Would prefer wood. Cheaper than rubber, but needs fresh top coat every 2-3 years
51	Marshall County	jlund@mccfreeze.org	1	1								14-Mar	
52	McGregor	pgrams@isd4.org	2			1						15-Mar	
53	Medford	rdahman@medford.k12	1			1						14-Mar	
54	Menahga	kwellen@menahga.k12	1	1								8-Apr	
55	Milaca	tim.truebenbach@milac	1			1						8-Apr	
56	Minnetonka	dennis.peterson@minn	1	1								15-Mar	in summer transitioning to all engineered wood - had rubber mulch
57	Minnewaska	gschmidt@minnewaska	1				1					11-Apr	
58	Monticello	jim.johnson@monticell	1				1					9-Apr	
59	Moose Lake	bob.indihar@isd97.org	1	1								8-Apr	
60	Mounds View	webmaster@moundsvi	1	1								15-Mar	
61	Murray County	Luther Onken (supt at F	1	1								15-Mar	considering rubber
62	New London-Sp	carlsonp@nls.k12.mn.u	1				1					14-Mar	had wood before the poured rubber and occasionally had mold
63	New Prague Are	tdittber@isd721.org	1	1								15-Mar	
64	Norman County	markl@nce.k12.mn.us	1				1					15-Mar	
65	Norman County	khedstrom@ncw.k12.m	1				1					8-Apr	
66	Northfield	CRichardson@northfiel	2	1									use wood mulch for general areas and rubber mats in landing areas (swings, slides)
67	Northland Comr	tmayclin@isd118.org	1				1					16-Mar	
68	Paynesville	rhuot@paynesville.k12	1									16-Mar	

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69	Pierz	gweber@pierz.k12.mn.	2	1	1							8-Apr	
70	Pillager	mmlmberg@isd116.or	1	1								8-Apr	
71	Pine City	wgilman@isd578.org	1	1								8-Apr	
72	Pine Island	tammyb@pineisland.k1	1	1							1	16-Mar	Sliver on occasion. New elementary with new playground, cost was a factor
73	Prior Lake-Savage	tstaloach@priorlake-sav	2	1	1							18-Apr	
74	Richfield	Steven.Unowsky@rpsm	1		1							18-Apr	
75	Rockford	durandp@rockford.k12	1			1						18-Apr	
76	Rocori	michalskib@rocori.k12.	1		1							18-Apr	
77	Rosemount-App	supt@district196.org	1	1								18-Apr	converting the pea rock to EWF
78	Sauk Centre	dan_brooks@isd743.k1	2	1	1							18-Apr	
79	Spring Grove	rachel.udstuen@spring	1	1								16-Apr	
80	St. Charles	mrroubinek@schs.k12.m	1	1							1	18-Apr	slivers once in a great while-all minor
81	St. James	bcelovszki@isd840.org	1		1							18-Apr	
82	St. Paul	supt.silva@spps.org	1	1								18-Apr	
83			total types used	96	42	23	14	13	3	0	2		
84													
85													
86				44%	24%	15%	14%	3%	7%	0%	5%		

April 7, 2016

Dear Valued Members of our Community,

In August 2015, the Minnehaha PTA created a plan to update the community playground located at the Minnehaha Elementary School. The plan includes removing outdated equipment that does not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and could pose a safety hazard to our children. The plan also includes updating the rubber chip surface because it is not inclusive for all children, updating equipment, and providing a green space. The object of the plan is to create a safe and exciting play space for children, as well as to make the playground more accessible to all children regardless of their needs and abilities.

The Minnehaha playground is located in Two Harbors along Eighth Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. Not only is the playground the sole source of outdoor play for Minnehaha students, but it also serves community members year round.

During the planning process, the committee identified the first priority for the playground project would be to remove all structures that do not meet ADA requirements. This equipment is unsafe for children to play on. The next priority, that is crucial to the success of our students, is to make the playground accessible for our special needs children. The current rubber chip surfacing makes it difficult for children using wheelchairs, walkers, or crutches to access the play areas. We would solve this problem by installing a pour and play surface material. This material would allow for an even surface that all children would be able to navigate to access their peers and playground equipment.

The new playground plan is designed for children 3 to 12 years old. It is intended to provide a great variety of creative play opportunities that will intrigue all children while helping to develop both physical and social skills.

The playground's projected install date is July 2016. We are using a volunteer based install as a way to cut back costs. The volunteer install involves community members assembling and installing the entire playground.

We are collecting items for our Spring Carnival to be used in raffle baskets and at our silent auction. Our Spring Carnival will be held on Saturday, April 23rd from 4:00-7:00.

Any donations, large or small, would be greatly appreciated and will show that the community supports the new playground project. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Falk at (218) 391-6286 or jfalk@isd381.k12.mn.us. Donations can be mailed to:

Minnehaha PTA Playground Project
421 7th Street
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Healthy Legacy

Healthy people,
a clean environment
and a thriving economy



Moratorium on Use of Recycled Waste Tires in Playgrounds & Athletic Fields (SF 3108, HF 3496)

Healthy Legacy supports a policy to prevent potential adverse health effects to children and athletes from exposure to shredded waste tire mulch in playgrounds and athletic fields. SF 3108 / HF 3496 will:

- Establish a moratorium on the use of public funds for new playgrounds and athletic fields using shredded tire mulch or crumb rubber infill until July 2019.
- Requires the Minnesota Department of Health to review and evaluate a report to be issued by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment¹ and report back to the Minnesota legislature on potential health risks to children and athletes of continued use of waste tires for playgrounds and athletic fields.
- Require signage to caution users of existing playgrounds and athletic fields of potential exposure and ways to reduce exposure to toxins in waste tire material.

Safer Playground and Synthetic Turf Materials

Playground Alternative

Engineered wood fiber (EWF) is a safer and less expensive alternative to shredded tire mulch for use on playgrounds, with comparable fall protection. EWF is made from 100% virgin wood fiber and is not chemically treated in any way.

Synthetic Turf Infill Alternative

Organic infill made from a coconut fiber, cork and rice husk blend is a safer alternative to crumb rubber that is 100% recyclable, odor free, non-toxic and mold resistant.



Recycling of Waste Tires

Nearly 300 million car and truck tires are discarded every year, about one for every person. To address the problem of tire stockpiles emitting hazardous compounds into the environment, since 1995 the U.S. EPA has been encouraging the recycling of waste tires into playground mulch and synthetic turf athletic field infill. Although waste tires meet the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's criteria for hazardous waste, they have received a special exemption for these uses.

Waste tires are ground up into pieces for use as playground mulch and processed into smaller pieces known as "crumb rubber" for use as synthetic turf infill. Use of recycled waste tires has grown over the last two decades. Thousands of playgrounds across the U.S. use shredded tire mulch as cushioning under outdoor play equipment. This includes nearly all Minneapolis public school playgrounds. Ninety-eight percent of the over 11,000 synthetic turf fields in the U.S. use crumb rubber infill.²

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This bill is an important step in addressing potentially harmful exposures of children and athletes to known toxic chemicals while they are at play.
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To leave a healthy legacy, Minnesota needs safe products and safe ways to make them.

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Toxic Chemicals Detected in Recycled Waste Tire Materials

According to a chemical analysis conducted by Yale University,³ 96 chemicals were found in samples of shredded rubber tire playground mulch. For half of these chemicals, there is no government testing – so whether they are safe for human health is unknown.

- Chemicals detected in shredded tire material include carcinogens, neurotoxins, respiratory/eye/skin irritants and reproductive and developmental toxins.
- Chemicals detected include the brain toxins styrene, lead and cadmium, as well as carcinogens, arsenic, pyrene, carbon black, polycyclic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and butadiene.
- Another study confirms the presence of hazardous chemicals in tire mulch, including PAHs that are released through volatilization and can be inhaled. The authors caution, "Uses of recycled rubber tires, especially those targeting play areas and other facilities for children, should be a matter of regulatory concern."⁴
- Athletes playing on synthetic turf are exposed to chronic toxicity from PAHs, known carcinogens.⁵ When the material gets hot, off-gassing of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air increases.
- There is concern that soccer goalies with chronic exposure to crumb rubber on synthetic turf fields may be at higher risk for lymphoma and leukemia cancers.⁶

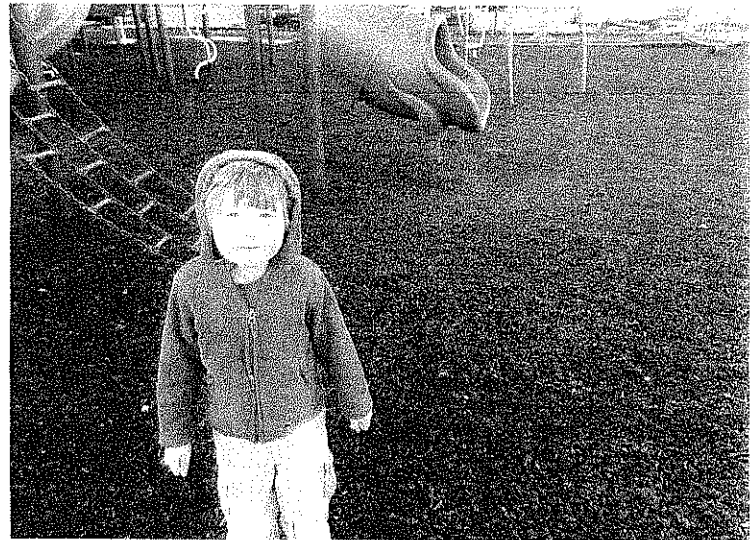
Contact us for more information:

• Jenna Grove •
jgrove@cleanwater.org
612-627-1539
• Kathleen Schuler •
Kathleen@conservationminnesota.org
612-767-1570

"Children go to playgrounds almost daily, and gifted athletes are on the soccer field almost every day. That sort of cumulative exposure results in a buildup in their body of these toxic chemicals, and can result in a buildup of cellular damage that's caused by these chemicals, that can then result in disease years or decades later. Little children should not be put in a situation where they're forced to be in intimate contact with carcinogenic chemicals."

Dr. Philip Landrigan

Dean of Global Health at Mount Sinai Medical Center and leading expert on the effects of chemicals on children.



Citations

- ¹Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) California Environmental Protection Agency <http://oehha.ca.gov/risk/SyntheticTurf-Studies.html>
- ²Synthetic Turf Council, <http://www.syntheticurfCouncil.org/>
- ³Environment & Human Health, Inc., 2007 http://www.ehhi.org/turf/metal_analysis2016.shtml
- ⁴Llompert M, Sanchez-Prado L, Lamas JP, Garcia-Jares c et al. Hazardous organic chemicals in rubber recycled tire playgrounds and pavers. *Chemosphere* 2013;90:423-31.
- ⁵Marsili L, Coppola D, Bianchi N, Maltese S et al. release of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals from rubber crumb in synthetic turf fields: preliminary hazard assessment for athletes. *Environmental & Analytical Toxicology* 2014;5(2):265.
- ⁶NBC News Investigation <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/how-safe-artificial-turf-your-child-plays-n220166>
- ⁷NBC News, used with permission of Dr. Landrigan <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/rubber-mulch-safe-surface-your-childs-play-ground-n258586>



SAMPLE D
MOCK-UP
Proposed
Wigislat
Sample

State of Minnesota Dept. of Health

The Minnesota Dept. of Health encourages all those using athletic fields and playgrounds containing crumb rubber to observe the following recommendations:

1. Wash hands and exposed body parts aggressively after playing on the field.
2. Turn clothes inside out as soon as possible after using the field to avoid tracking dust and infill to other locations.
3. Keep beverages closed and in bags or coolers when not drinking to minimize contamination from field dust and fibers.
4. Be aware of signs of heat-related illness and dehydration. Fields can get excessively hot on warm, sunny days. Take all necessary precautions.