



An entrapment is a hazardous situation where the body (or part of the body) or clothing can become trapped or caught, so that the person is unable to free themselves.

AS 4685.1 Playground equipment and surfacing requires entrapment hazards to be removed or avoided on playground equipment (including moveable play equipment such as trestles and attachments).

When designing, installing or maintaining playground equipment, care must be taken to ensure the following hazards are not created:

Head and Neck Entrapment

Bound openings (completely closed on all sides) located more than 600mm above playing surface.

Partially bound openings (V or U shaped) located more than 600mm above playing surface and facing upward above the horizontal plane.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Gaps or V shaped openings on slides, swings, sliding poles and other equipment where clothing/ hair can become trapped while, or immediately before, the user is undergoing forced movement.



Whole Body Entrapment

Openings where the body can be trapped within tunnels and below heavy suspended items.

Whole Body Entrapment

Gaps where a person's foot or leg gets trapped in a path of travel.

Finger Entrapment

Openings where fingers can be trapped whilst the remainder of the body is moving or continues in forced movement e.g. sliding, swinging, spinning.

Bound openings located more than 1000mm above playing surface.

Chains and items with variable gaps, such as a clatter bridge.

Entrapment Identification

A comprehensive playground inspection will identify entrapment hazards using calibrated testing tools with specific test methods. This inspection should be conducted by a qualified inspector post installation then annually.

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Need more help? Kidsafe SA provides a playground inspection service. Contact us for a quote to organise an inspector to visit your playspace and provide specific advice.

Hazard	Openings to avoid	Image
Head and neck entrapment (bound)	89-230mm	
Head and neck entrapment (partially bound)	U or V shaped	
Clothing/hair entrapment	V shaped around items of forced movement	
Whole body entrapment	Refer to AS 4685 for specifics. Contact Kidsafe SA for information	
Foot and leg entrapment	>30mm (across direction of travel)	
Bound finger entrapment	8-25mm	
Finger entrapment (chain)	≥8.6mm	
Finger entrapment (connectors)	8-12mm	
Finger entrapment (variable gaps)	≤12mm	