

The Australian Standard AS 4685 Playground equipment and surfacing applies to both moveable and fixed play equipment.

Moveable play equipment includes trestles and attachments, portable forts, climbing apparatus and many more play accessories.

Maximum Height

The maximum free height of fall for moveable play equipment is 1500mm e.g. the highest foot support and/or platform on moveable play equipment shall be no higher than 1500mm.

Impact Area

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required surrounding moveable play equipment items that measure 600mm or more above ground level.

An impact area of 1500mm is required between each piece of equipment that is not linked. See Figure 1 below.

A tape measure or length of dowel (cut to size) can be used to check the required falling space and impact area.

A circulation zone of 1000mm is recommended surrounding low equipment items that are designed for climbing, rocking, jumping and balancing.

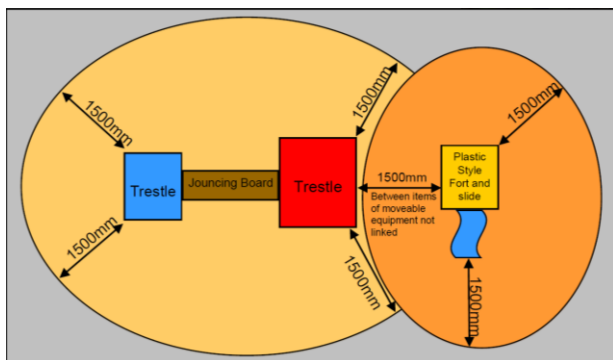
Setting Up

For moveable play equipment with a climbing height 600mm or more above ground level the equipment must be set up on impact attenuating playground surfacing. Refer to the information sheet Playground Surfacing for more information.

Surfacing

It is required that certified playground surfacing (*for more information on surfacing see Playground Surfacing factsheet*) fills the impact area under and surrounding the equipment. On areas of solid surfacing, it is recommended to mark out the impact area on the playground surface by painting a line or at the time of installation, laying a different colour to highlight the impact area as pictured below.

For equipment items less than 600mm above ground level that are designed for climbing, rocking or spinning, set up on a soft surface such as well maintained grass.



Minimum dimensions of impact areas for moveable equipment items as per AS 4685:2014. This figure is not to scale.

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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.