

British and European Standards for Play Surfacing

1. There are no precise product standards or specifications for any of the various types of play surfacing (wet pour rubber, rubber tiles, matrix products or Loose Impact Absorbing Surface (L.I.A.S.)), set out in BSEN1176:2008. Each manufacture makes to their specifications.
2. However, within table 4 of BSEN1176:2008, there are 'Examples of Commonly Used Impact Attenuating Materials'.

Material Type	Description
Bark	20 – 80mm grain / particle size
Woodchip	5 – 30mm grain / particle size
Sand	0.2 – 2mm grain / particle size
Gravel	2 – 8mm grain / particle size

Please note that as the above are 'examples of product specification', other products and specifications are acceptable. However, if these product do not match the above specification, they must have been tested in accordance with BSEN1176 and 1177.

The 'examples' above are extremely vague:-

- They not state the type of bark, i.e. mixed conifer or pine
 - They do not state the minimum wood content
 - The woodchip doesn't state whether they are to be virgin chips or post consumer waste
 - Nothing is mentioned about bark or wood coming from a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) sustainable source.
 - It is almost impossible to grade bark and wood products to fall within a precisely defined particle size range. It is for that reason that we describe all of our products as having nominal particle size ranges.
 - The sand type is not specified. Melcourt Play Sand is silica sand.
3. The Standard also includes the following:-
Items 4.2.8.5.1.
'If loose particulate material is used (i.e. L.I.A.S.), it shall be installed to a larger thickness of 100mm more than that determined by testing to EN1177, to achieve the required crucial fall height.'
This is to allow for displacement through use.

However, the Standard also states the minimum depth and critical fall height as follows:

Material Type	Minimum Installed Depth	Critical Fall Height
Topsoil / Turf		≤ 1.00 metre
Bark	200mm	≤2.00 metres
	300mm	≤3.00 metres
Sand	200mm	≤2.00 metres
	300mm	≤3.00 metres
Gravel	200mm	≤2.00 metres
	300mm	≤3.00 metres

For other materials and depths, the test results as achieved by HIC as per BSEN1177 are to be used, to give the critical fall height.

The LIAS materials should be properly prepared for use in children's playgrounds.

Sands and Gravels should not contain silt or clay particles.

Contact