

Climbing Wall Safety Standards and Guidelines

- Consult Operations Department to ensure that your wall is being mounted to a suitable and stable surface and verify that this surface is free of asbestos and other toxic materials.
- Develop and implement a required staff training program for all teachers and staff supervising (including signed verification of those trained) activity on the wall that includes, but is not limited to:
 - Proper climbing techniques
 - Rules and regulations for the climbing wall
 - Mat set-up and takedown procedures
 - Care and maintenance of the climbing wall
 - Required safety inspections and methodology for documenting (logging results)
 - Curriculum guidelines and resources
 - Protocol for reporting and recording climbing wall injuries
- Restrict student climbing to times when a certified trained staff member is available to supervise the activity.
- Create safe landing surfaces for your students by installing mats that are safety tested for climbing wall activities.
- Extend all landing surfaces (mats) to at least six feet away from your climbing wall
- Require that all climbers adhere to prescribed wall safety guidelines. (The Red Relief Safety line clearly indicates the safe climbing zone for climbers).
- Require that climbers remove all jewelry, watches, and other risk-promoting apparel prior to climbing.
- Require that students wear shoes (suitable for physical activity) while climbing on the wall.
- Carefully monitor and supervise your climbing wall activities. Choose activities that are safe and age appropriate.
- Never leave your climbing wall unattended.
- Eliminate access to your wall during unsupervised hours through the use of innovations such as mat locking systems and “Closed to Use” signs.” Post a minimum of three (3) signs that are displayed on the mats and read: “This wall is closed and may not be used without approval of the principal and the presence of a trained supervisor”
- Develop, communicate and enforce rules for your climbing wall. Post these rules near the wall and routinely review the rules with participants.
- If you set your own climbing routes, make sure that the level of challenge created is safe and appropriate for the age and experience level of your students. Check to ensure that the spacing of your holds does not create a risk for pinching or entrapment of fingers, hands, arms, or legs. Make sure that the handholds that you use are comfortable and hand/tendon friendly.

- If your climbing wall is constructed in a multi-use room or gymnasium, make sure that the wall is protected with vertically-hanging mats that are secured and locked to the wall and are thick enough to protect students who crash up against it.

Maintenance And Ongoing Inspection Of Your Horizontal Wall

- Prior to each climbing wall session, check to make sure that the landing mats are carefully placed on the floor surface adjacent to the wall and are free of wrinkles and irregularities. Check to verify that your mat seams are closed to ensure an even surface that protects against tripping or stumbling.
 - Maintain your climbing wall on a regular basis. Routinely inspect anchorage of plywood panels to wall. Check all holds and tighten those that are loose. Instruct your students to report any holds that move or spin. Keep a written log documenting your wall maintenance.
 - Routinely check your holds for rough edges or fractures. Remove and replace all compromised holds. (Although our products are noted for their structural integrity, we cannot protect your wall against blunt force impact that could damage your holds and compromise your student's safety.)
 - Repair (if feasible) or repair any climbing wall equipment that is in poor condition.
 - Close the wall to climbers if any repairs are warranted.
 - Maintain a school climbing wall maintenance log. A certified school staff member should complete all entries in this log. In the log, record inspector's name, conditions found, repairs made or reported, date of inspection and comments. If any panel/or panel part is loose or pulling away from wall, immediately close the wall to further use and request maintenance inspection and repair.
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Climbing Wall Rules

- Supervision is required
- 6' safety mats must be in place
- Remove all jewelry
- Shoes are required for climbing
- Climb Safely: No feet about the red line
- Step down from the wall. No jumping
- Have fun!
- Step away from the mat upon completion of your climb
- Avoid walking underneath other climbers on the wall
- Maintain at least 3 points of contact with the wall at all times