

ProPlay synthetic safety surfaces for playgrounds and sports areas

SSP. Specialised Sports Products Limited

SSP. Specialised Sports Products markets a range of synthetic surfaces for play areas as well as for most commonly played sports. A supply and fix service is available.

GENERAL

Introduction SSP. Specialised Sports Surfaces Limited supplies and installs safety surfacing, including wet pour rubber systems and rubber safety tiles. The range embraces the **ProPlay** safety carpet system, described in detail below. **ProPlay** has been developed by SSP to provide an easily maintained safety surface which exhibits excellent physical properties, while being environmentally sound as it is based on recycled polyethylene.

Applications SSP products are intended for use on all sports and play areas where all-weather play is needed and/or where it is wished to avoid the high maintenance costs incurred with grassed areas. **ProPlay** safety surfacings for playgrounds may be used wherever it is wished to provide greater safety for children than is the case with grassed or asphalted play areas.

Authority The **ProPlay** system has been tested in accordance with BS 7188: 1989 *Methods of test for impact absorbing playground surfaces* and in accordance with European Standards BS EN 1177 (1998) and NEN-EN 1177(1997).

DESCRIPTION

Composition, manufacture The **ProPlay** system is normally installed in a shallow excavation, although it may be installed above ground. The system comprises one or two base layers of shock absorbent polyethylene, covered by a sand-filled synthetic grass carpet.

The base layer is manufactured in roll or slab form from recycled closed cell cross-linked polyethylene foam. This material is a product reclaimed from new car manufacture; it is combined with similar surplus foam products without using glues or adhesives. Recommended layers/thicknesses are:

Critical Fall Height (CFH) (m)	No. of layers	Layer thickness (mm)
3	2	35
1.6	1	35
1.3	1	25

The protective top layer consists of a durable, sand-filled, tufted, polypropylene, cutpile carpet with a 24 mm pile height which acts as a protective wearing finish. The pile of the synthetic grass is filled with kiln-dried sand to a depth of between 20 and 22 mm. The determined depth must be maintained at all times by topping up the sand as necessary. The carpet is laid using a concealed edge fixing method which reduces the possibility of vandalism. The various layers of the **ProPlay** system are laid at right angles to one another so that no joints coincide.

Further information on the standard construction and fixing details are shown in the line drawings overleaf.

Dimensions The base layers of **ProPlay** polyethylene sheets are 0.95 m wide x 2.25 m long and 25 mm or 35 mm thick. The **ProPlay** rolls are 1 m x 10 m long and 25 mm or 35 mm thick. The synthetic carpet is 4.0 m wide x 25 mm long.



Clockwise from top left: 1. preparing the base and laying the base layers. 2. finishing base layers. 3. laying second layer. 4. laying carpet.



The completed playground surfacing

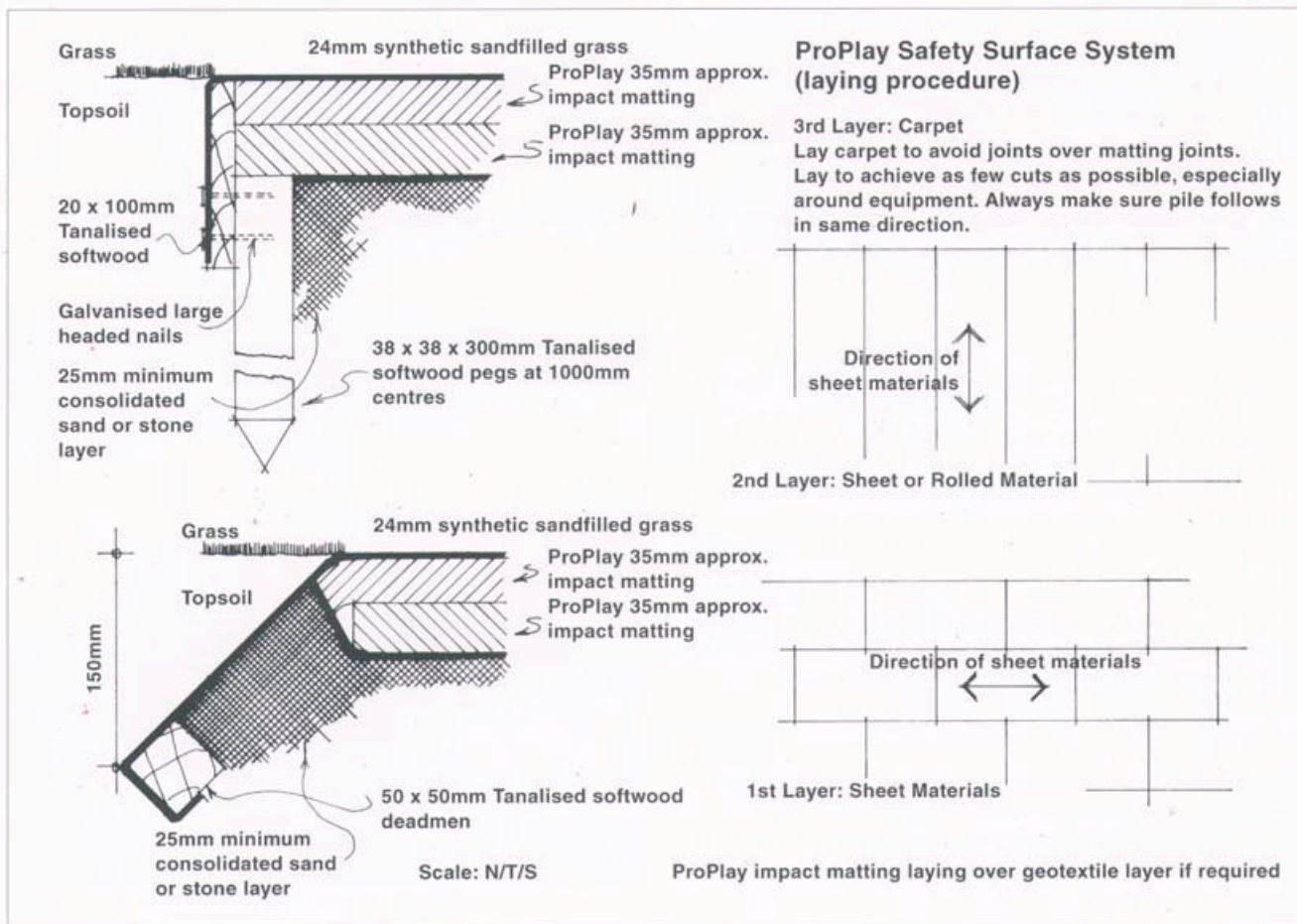
Appearance The visible surface of the cutpile carpet is normally green, but red and blue are also offered.

PERFORMANCE

Impact testing When tested to BS 7188 (BS EN 1177(1998)), dynamic impact testing over a series of 1,000 impacts showed only a slight reduction in CFH.

Fire Tests to BS 4790 show that the system has a low radius of ignition.

Heat **ProPlay** matting is unaffected by temperatures from -100°C to +100°C.



SITWORK

Installation All installation work meets the minimum standards required under BS 5696: Part 3: 1979 *Play equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors - Code of Practice for installation and maintenance* and in accordance with BS EN 1176-7. Installation can take place even in adverse weather conditions. The line drawings above illustrate the principal installation techniques; these can be adapted to suit unusual site conditions. The **ProPlay** safety surface system should be installed over a sand or stone consolidated base approximately 50 mm deep, or hard surfacing such as asphalt or concrete. Under swing seats, it is recommended that a rubber tile or similar should be installed to increase the wear resistance.

MAINTENANCE

The **ProPlay** system is designed to require very little maintenance. Regular maintenance consists of brushing to remove leaves and debris and occasional hosing to remove more resistant dirt. The sand level may need occasional topping up. Any accidental or wilful damage can be repaired by cutting away the relevant portion and inserting a new section using tapes and adhesives.

ECONOMICS

Guarantees The system is guaranteed against faults in materials and workmanship for twelve months; the synthetic carpet is guaranteed for five years except in areas of extreme wear such as below swings when the guarantee is for three years.

SUPPLY

Availability All products are supplied direct from the company.

SERVICES

Installation A full installation service is available from the company.

REFERENCES

A full list of installations is available on request. Other products and services available from the company include: artificial grass sports surface maintenance, wet pour rubber, rubber safety tiles, and polyethylene shock pads.

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