

OUTDOOR SANDBOX SAFETY

Selection of sand

- Sand purchased for sandboxes should be labelled as play sand and must indicate that it is silica-free
- Replace sand on a regular basis. The frequency will depend on the amount of sandbox use
- Treating sand with chemicals in an attempt to clean and/or disinfect the sand is not effective

Placement of sandboxes

- Locate sandbox in a well shaded area. If natural shade is not available, provide protective shading

Check the box daily

- Visually inspect for signs of contamination and/or safety hazards such as animal feces, insects, sharp objects or other foreign objects before each use
- Use a rake to inspect the sand. Hazards can be easily buried beneath the sand's surface

Don't allow eating or drinking while playing in the sandbox

- Children should not eat or drink while playing in the sandbox. This can result in children ingesting the sand and other contaminants
- Ensure children wash their hands thoroughly after playing in the sandbox. Washing hands with soap and water removes dirt and disease-causing microorganisms. Hand sanitizer containing 70 to 90% alcohol concentration may also be used to kill disease-causing microorganisms on hands. When hands are visibility soiled, handwashing with soap and water is preferred; if soap and water is not available, hands may be cleaned using a moistened towelette or wipe before using hand sanitizer. Do not use disinfectant wipes to clean hands

Keep the sandbox covered at all times when not in use

- Cover the sandbox with a tight fitting, non-absorbent cover or lid when not in use. Fasten the cover to prevent children, animals, insects, water and debris from getting under it
- Store the sandbox cover in a safe manner when the sandbox is in use
- If the sand becomes wet, ensure it is dried thoroughly before the cover is replaced

For more information refer to *A Public Health Guide For Child Care Providers* at york.ca/ChildCareGuide

Please note that additional public health measures may be advised during an outbreak or pandemic by YRPH and the Ministry of Education.