

Nature Play Spaces - Natural Materials Fact Sheet

Sand

Sand can be used in a variety of ways within a nature play setting.

Sand Pits: sand pits come in many shapes and sizes, including inground and raised. Some grades of sand can serve as softfall and a sandpit; this saves money and space.

Softfall: sand can be used as a cheap, interactive softfall. Play sand and softfall are usually washed and screened to the same certification; making sourcing easier.

ENSURE THAT SANDPITS:

- Are level or tiered to reduce sand run-off.
- Have a minimum of 400mm depth.
- Comply with AS/NZS 4422:1996 – Playground Surfacing – Specification requirements and test methods, when being used as soft-fall.
- Have appropriate subsoil drainage, connecting to a nearby storm-water system - consult a landscape architect if necessary.

CONSIDER:

- Shading sand play areas partially or totally; sand gets very hot and children generally occupy them for extended periods. This can be done with buildings, trees, or shade structures.

NOTE: If you're using trees for shade, ensure that they are evergreen and don't drop excessive loose material (seedpods, branches etc).

Consider adding elements in the sand such as 'fossils', rocks, logs and/or loose parts and materials to increase interest and potential play opportunities.

