



Congratulations on your purchase of your Woodplay playset! To ensure a smooth installation and to provide you some suggestions on how to properly care for your playset we have developed the following checklists:

INSTALLATION OF PLAYSET

- The area where the playset is to be installed must be clear of all debris. The area should be level, when Woodplay must extensively alter the ground or customize the playset to build a playset on unlevel ground you will be charged additional fees unless disclosed prior to purchase.
- Woodplay is not responsible for adding fill dirt or removing trees, shrubs, roots, etc. This should be done prior to the scheduled installation date.
- The size of the area must be big enough to fit the playset with a suggested six feet of space around each side of the playset for safe play.
- Select an area that is play friendly. If you are planning to do borders or mulching, we suggest doing this after the playset is installed. Consider triple shredded wood mulch that is insect and decay resistant (such as cypress or cedar) or rubber mulch, as mulch options. We would be happy to provide you a custom quote for this if interested.
- You need to be at home for the entire installation at the scheduled date and time. Please allow for a two-hour window of time for the installer to arrive.
- Owners need to pre-determine where the playset is to be installed. The playset cannot be easily moved once it has been set up and charges will be incurred for this service.

SWING SET ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

Inspection, Care and Maintenance of the Playset:

- After 60 days, check and tighten all bolts, due to the natural flexion and settling actions of wood.
- Your Woodplay playset should be inspected at least once a year for possible loose, worn or broken parts.
- Your Woodplay playset should be cleaned and re-stained annually to maximize the aesthetic appeal and value.

A “**Deluxe Tune Up**” service is available through Woodplay of the Carolinas. This service will ensure many years of enjoyment from your Woodplay playset. Pricing is based on the size of your set but includes the following:

- Warranty review on all parts and pieces
- Safety inspection and stability adjustment if needed
- Wood treatment- restore and brighten wooden components, pressure wash, re-stain with a water based, non-toxic, UV protectant

Non-Wood Component Maintenance:

The plastic accessories such as belt swings, telescopes, steering wheels, slides and tire swings may be cleaned with warm soapy water. The vinyl roofs may also be cleaned with warm soapy water; however, we do recommend removing it and laying it flat prior to cleaning.

Wood Component Maintenance Guidelines:

Our cedar wood products are preferred for outdoor use because of their attractive appearance, unsurpassed durability, and long-term stability. Any wood product left in its natural state or with inadequate protection can experience a change in the appearance of its color and texture. Sunlight, moisture, temperature, microorganisms, dirt, and soot can all contribute to the discoloration of any wood used outdoors. Effects can range from wood turning a light gray due to ultraviolet radiation and precipitation, to it turning nearly black as a result of mildew growth, dirt or soot accumulation, or extractive staining. In general, the sequential color change of a playset that is stained only one time will be a transition from the original reddish-brown color, to a lighter brown and then either to a gray patina or dark brown dependent upon climate and/or other factors.

Under normal circumstances, well-maintained playsets will require only very periodic cleaning, if at all. However, should you choose to clean and/or re-stain your playset, you may use the guidelines as outlined below. Remember that with playset staining, a careful, meticulous job will always turn out better than a rushed job.

Cleaning your Playset:

If you are dealing with minor discoloration on only a few areas of the playset, you may clean and then re-stain only the affected components. However, if you are dealing with a more severe discoloration that covers a large portion of the playset, the entire playset may need to be first cleaned and then re-stained. Here are three options:

1. **Cleaning by Hand-** To clean your playset, mix equal quantities of common household bleach with water. This solution will also help remove any stain pigmentation in the wood, revealing the wood's natural color. For severe discoloration, use a stiff bristle brush to scrub wood components with a solution of one cup of tri-sodium phosphate (TSP), one cup of household liquid bleach, and one gallon of water. After the wood has been cleaned and allowed to completely dry, it should be re-stained.
2. **Commercial Cleaning Solutions-** Due to the increased popularity of outdoor wood products, many commercial products are now available for removing wood discoloration and restoring new appearance. These products are generally available in powder or liquid concentrate form and are typically based upon non-chlorine bleaches, detergents, and/or oxalic acid. The advantage of using commercial products is that they are intended for a specific use, come with comprehensive instructions, and can be very effective.
3. **Power Washing (See caution note below)** Power washing has gained wide acceptance as a method of cleaning and restoring wood surfaces prior to refinishing. Properly performed, there are several advantages to power washing, including savings in time and labor costs. Extreme

caution should be taken when power washing playsets. Remember that water and pressure are fundamental enemies of wood and that improper power washing can do more harm than good. Use a low psi setting and maintain a minimum distance of 12 inches from the playset. Test the pressure on an inconspicuous section before starting. Improper pressure washing may void your warranty. We recommend that you first strip the playset of all components susceptible to power washing damage (i.e. slides, personalized signs, vinyl roofs, plastic components, etc.). After power washing apply a protective finish.

Re-Staining your Playset:

Although not required, we do recommend re-staining your playset once a year to keep the surface of the wood smooth and to maintain its rich color. We recommend a penetrating stain/sealant that is non-toxic and safe for children. Woodplay of the Carolinas has specially formulated stain available for you to purchase. We have water based and oil-based formulas (it is your personal preference which version you choose to work with). You may also contact your Sherwin Williams dealer and ask them for their water based, UV protectant, non-toxic, redwood stain. Remember that if you select an oil-based stain you will have to use oil base exclusively in the future.

The following items are recommended for a playset re-staining project. Stain, staining mitts to cover large areas of the playset, small paint brush for detail/edge work, paint trays to hold stain, latex gloves to protect hands, paper towels/rags for cleanup, tools to remove playset accessory components, masking tape to cover ladder rungs or other items and a ladder for reaching roofs, swing beams, etc.

To re-stain your playset, please follow these steps:

1. Remove all non-wood accessory components that could be accidentally stained.
2. Use masking tape on fixed items that should be protected from staining.
3. Remove any wood components that will be easier to stain if detached.
4. Start with the main structure beginning at the top and work your way down.
5. Stain detached components.
6. Wipe down all areas of stain accumulation/dripping.
7. Carefully reassemble the playset.
8. The stain will dry very quickly but you should wait 1 day before playing on it.

Moving Your Playset

We also offer “**Move**” services if you are moving and want to take your playset with you or if you are selling your set to someone and they need this service. The price varies based on the size and complexity of your playset so please call for current pricing.

Carpenter Bees

We often get asked about Carpenter Bees and how to prevent damage to your playset. Here is some basic information:

Carpenter bees resemble bumble bees. They are large, ¾ inch to 1 inch long, heavy bodied, blue-black with a purplish metallic sheen and white or yellow hairs on the thorax. The males fly around aggressively but are harmless since they have no stinger. The females are docile and rarely sting.

Females create galleries (locations to nest and lay eggs) in exposed wood surfaces that are unprotected (stain is not a protectant). The gallery has a clean-cut round entrance hole with sharp edges 3/8 to 1/2-inch-wide on the lateral wood surface. The gallery continues inward for one to two inches then turns sharply at a 90 degree right angle running in the same direction as the wood grain from four inches to ten feet long. Damage from a pair of bees is slight, but if used by many bees over several years, damage can be extensive.

Females provision the tunnels with bee bread (mixture of pollen and nectar), lay an egg on top of the mass and close the cell with chewed wood pulp. Each female may have six to eight sealed brood cells in a linear row in one gallery. She can excavate at the rate of one inch in six days. Larvae develop on the food provided and new adults chew through the cell partitions and emerge in late August. They collect and store pollen in the existing galleries, return to the tunnels to hibernate and mate the following spring.

Treatment

Each female bee has her own gallery and usually enters through her own entrance hole. Sometimes a few carpenter bees will use the same entrance hole, making their own galleries. To treat effectively, you must find each entrance hole and treat each one (preferably with the bee inside), waiting a few days to see if you are successful.

Chemicals used for treatment include any insecticide labeled for carpenter bees (an insecticidal dust application is more effective than a spray due to the nature of the gallery construction). WD40 can also be used to kill the bees, but it will not penetrate as far as a dust formula can. Use a product applied with a "straw" or a long nozzle so you can inject the insecticide directly into the hole. This is the only way the bee will get a lethal dose which helps ensure that she does not just abandon the existing gallery and relocate. ***During treatment with any type of toxic substance, it is recommended to make the playset "off limits" to all children!***

During the daytime, locate tunnel entrances. Then, after dark on a cool evening when carpenter bees are less active, treat directly into the nest entrance and on a wide area of the adjacent wood surface.

Do not plug the entrance since bees should be allowed to pass freely to distribute the insecticide within the holes. If tunnels are plugged before bees are killed, they may chew new openings elsewhere.

Once you know each hole is inactive (place a piece of tissue in the entrance – if it disappears there is still activity) you can caulk the hole with any kind of brown caulking.