

SAVING COSTS ON LIBERTY SWING INSTALLATIONS

There are many ways to save on installation costs – it all depends on the budget available and the desired ‘look’ you require. Here are some updated ideas put together from lessons learned in over 300 Liberty Swing installations around the world.

SURFACING

There are minimum Standards which need to be met which require a designated area under the swing to have an accepted ‘softfall’ surface – this is called the fall zone. Please refer to our Technical Fact Sheet and Layout for up to date information on fall zone requirements, also available on our website. Softfall which meets standards might be wetpour or ‘poured in place’ rubber (most expensive) or it might be tan bark or wood fiber (least expensive) – both are acceptable for the fall zone.

There are a number of options for the softfall area which include incorporating a complete softfall surface (using wetpour rubber or tan bark) within the fenced boundary, or softfall on the fall zone only. These options can vary significantly in price and depend on municipal preferences (if in a public park), budgets and site conditions. If budget is an issue, use the minimal wetpour rubber as softfall surface material as this incurs the major cost.

Please check the local regulations in your country/region as standards vary from country to country.

FENCING

The manufacturer previously recommended a 1500 mm height for fencing. Given that the fence is a safety ‘barrier’ as opposed to a means of keeping people out, the height recommendation has been adjusted to 1200 mm. This is a standard height for swimming-pool fencing and should represent a 20% cost saving on the previous 1500 mm height fence.

Keeping in mind that the fence is a barrier, other means can be used, such as shrubbery and trees, as long as a barrier is formed to block the path of someone inadvertently running in the path of a moving swing.

UNFENCED LIBERTY SWINGS

The fencing requirement is not governed by regulation, and therefore customers have previously followed the recommendation of the manufacturer as a guide. An Australian playground safety expert, is now advocating a ‘no fence’ policy, and is willing to certify as ‘safe’, in certain conditions, unfenced Liberty Swings. This is to appease some disability play advocates, who, whilst they value the Liberty Swing, see the fence as a restriction to inclusivity. The argument is made that by having an increased clearance under the capsule, safety is not compromised by non-fencing. After discussions with the manufacturer, Liberty Swing Pty Ltd is not able to support this policy, and so our recommendation for a barrier will remain in place.

Please also refer to our Fact Sheet – photo images of installation options for graphic examples of fencing and surfacing alternatives.