



Hollow & Deckciting Block Care:

Recommended Use:

Hollow and Deckciting Blocks are a fantastic resource for children to learn about stability and balance.

Ensure there is plenty of free space around the block play area as the structures built may be unstable and fall over (structures should not be built over a height of 60cm). This is an opportunity for children to learn about and manage risk.

Supervision recommended. Rec age 3+Yrs.

The blocks can be used inside and outside although they always must be stored dry in a covered area when not in use as this will greatly prolong their lifespan.

Block Care & Cleaning:

Regularly check your blocks for any splits, breaks, missing or broken parts. If any of these issues occur remove the block immediately.

It is good practice to regularly sand any rough edges that occur through regular play - you could even get the children involved. After sanding, the blocks should be treated with a good quality sealer. Any sealer used must be suitable for children's toys.

The best way to clean your blocks is by using a stiff brush to remove any debris and then using a small amount of soapy water to wipe them down, ensuring they are completely dry before play continues.

Checklist for Blocks & Loose Parts

It is advisable to have some safety guidelines for using loose parts, and carry out each time an end user risk assessment. When using loose parts the health and safety considerations are simple and practical.

Loose parts checklist before play:-

- ✓ All loose parts should be continuously checked that it is safe enough to play with. A good look over should do it.
- ✓ With more unusual items, it pays to run your hands lightly over surfaces and bend and wiggle bits to test if they are going to flake, fracture or break.
- ✓ Ensure that all part edges and surfaces are smooth – free from splinters for example on wooden items. If they have become rough, sand before use or leave out of play.

This information is only provided as guidance. You should always satisfy yourself the product is completely safe to use in your environment with a full safety assessment.



During play:

- Inform the participants that as some items are heavier or long, they should not be carried or held above head height and that some should ideally be moved using two people to ensure that no injuries occur.
- Point out obvious specific risks relating to individual products and rules of use.
- Identify which products may need higher levels of supervision and store them in an area to be treated differently.
- If you are using outdoor products be aware that the risk will increase relating to certain weathers such as increased slippiness, manage accordingly.
- Loose parts like all products offer opportunities that children will play in unusual ways with products, be sure to create a framework of understanding with regards to climbing, balancing, building to ensure the children play safely.
- Ensure an adequate level of supervision and skill of supervisor is risk awareness trained

After play:

Whilst tidying up take stock of all the loose parts and identify any breakages, damage or dirt which needs to be rectified before your next play.

Note: Playing with these resources is a superb opportunity to explore and discuss risk with kids so that they can learn how to better assess risk for themselves.

With all products a risk assessment should be carried out at each use, this would highlight any risks associated with both the products and the setting they are being used in, this would also be coupled along with the children's age and ability.

****NOTE:** Please be sure that any stains or paints used are child-friendly and non-toxic.

Cosy care kits

Cosy stock a variety of brushes, cloths and cleaning products to help you manage your block products. Visit www.cosydirect.co.uk to find out more.