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## Hollow & Deckciting Block Care:

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Congratulations if you have purchased loose parts and natural resources. These should give years of open ended joy, creative thinking, enabling a broad range of children to assess risks and benefits and create some wonderful, playful and memorable experiences.

### Recommended Use:

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. This is an opportunity for children to learn about and manage risk.

Managing risk generally Managing risk in play provision. Guidance, which is endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive, shows how current risk-assessment practice takes into account the benefits to children and young people of challenging play experiences, including the risks. It starts from the position that, while outside expertise and advice are valuable, the ultimate responsibility for making decisions rests with the provider. The full implementation guide is written for those responsible for managing play provision, and for those involved in designing and maintaining such provision. The general approach should also be useful for those who manage other spaces and settings where children play. To download Managing risk in play provision: Implementation Guide, visit <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Loose-Parts-Play-web.pdf>

Ensure adequate free space around the block play area. Unstable structures may topple and could cause injury. Therefore supervision is required at all times. Rec 3+Yrs. Children should not build structures above their shoulder height.

Children must not be allowed to climb on structures with a height of 60cm or more.

Beware of unsafe block structures. Any openings created must measure 50cm in diameter to allow adults to gain access.

### CAUTION:

Long Blocks and Planks are heavy. Encourage cooperation to prevent injury.

To prevent injury, caregivers and staff must familiarize themselves with these materials before giving children access to them.

### Block Care & Cleaning:

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



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

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.

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