

## **UV Discolouration of EPDM Wetpour**

Lots of children's playgrounds have EPDM Wetpour surfaces installed to provide a colourful atmosphere with added safety qualities. The designs of this play surface can be varied as there is a variety of bright colours to choose from. However over time the coloured rubber can be affected by UV discolouration. These are processes which occur when the flooring is exposed to high levels of radiation from the sun, and they can lead to changes in the overall appearance.

### **UV Discolouration**

During the installation process for EPDM play surfacing, the rubber granules for the wearing course are mixed with standard Aromatic (MDI) resin before being laid onto the base course. A process of UV discolouration can occur when the resin reacts with the ultraviolet rays, causing it to show as a yellow/brown tinge rather than clear and is a bit like an apple which starts to brown once cut open. This can then affect the appearance of the surface colour of the laid rubber crumb and can mean that they do not truly represent the chosen colour design.

The discolouration can happen with all colours of EPDM however, some show a more visible change than others. For this reason, we often recommend using certain colours more than others to ensure that every playground we install continues to look fantastic. We therefore strongly discourage the use of Light Blue and Light Grey for this reason, especially when laid in direct sunlight conditions. These changes, will generally diminish over time and with continued use of the areas, as the colour crumb itself does not change, simply the resin which is coating it. UV discolouration is not covered by our guarantee.

The effects of UV discolouration will vary depending on a number of factors for each different site. Things like location, area size, chosen colour and surrounding and time of year when installed. The affects are purely aesthetic and do not compromise the integrity or performance of the impact absorbing surface and it will still remain fit for purpose.

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