



Playspace Build Glossary

From the KaBOOM! Toolkit: Construction Team

www.kaboom.org

As you know, there are many, many items that factor into both community playspace budget and site preparation, and there's probably some unfamiliar terms. Read this guide so you know the basics!

Budget

When creating your budget, it's important that you cover all possible bases...you don't want your committee members reaching into their own pockets for unforeseen costs! It's a long list, but don't worry - not all of these items will be relevant to your project, and most of them can be donated.

- **Play-Equipment Company Fees & Expenses Design Day Fees:** Any fees and expenses paid to your play-equipment company for your representative's time, travel, lodging, etc. specifically for Design Day
- **Design Production Fees:** Any fees paid to your play-equipment company for developing and/or revising your playspace design
- **Play Equipment and Materials:** Physical pieces purchased from your play-equipment company, including any loose-fill surfacing containment system and permanent safety signs
- **Shipping and Handling:** Costs for shipping play equipment and any hardware, tools, etc. from the play-equipment company to your site
- **Sales Tax:** Taxes for play equipment and shipping charges. (Some states charge a sales tax on shipping and handling fees)
- **Site Preparation/Installation Fees and Expenses:** Labor costs and out-of-pocket expenses (including travel/ lodging) for your company representative and/or installer to supervise site preparation and installation of the playspace
- **Surfacing Company Fees & Expenses Safety Surfacing & Materials:** Surfacing materials (loose-fill or unitary) purchased from your vendor. May include liners, drainage systems, and other supporting materials. In addition, expect shipping, handling, and sales tax fees.
- **Installation Fees and Expenses:** Labor costs and out-of-pocket expenses (including travel/ lodging) for professional installation of the surfacing. Generally necessary only for poured-in-place rubber surfacing

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Site Prep

Site preparation is an important variable in playspace budgets, and careful planning can reduce costs considerably. You may need to consult with your play-equipment company representative or a local construction company to determine accurate price estimates for your area. Note that these items are separate from pre-build site prep may include any of the following:

- **Site Leveling/Grading:** Machinery (and therefore skilled operators) may be required to level an uneven site. Alternately, backfill can be brought in to build up the site.
- **Tearing Up Asphalt/Concrete:** Depending on your site and the kind of safety surfacing you choose, you may need to remove a concrete or asphalt slab. Professionals usually do this work.
- **Pouring a Concrete Slab:** If you choose a unitary fill surfacing (e.g. poured-in-place rubber) and do not have a suitable base such as concrete, crushed stone or asphalt, you will have to hire professionals to pour a concrete slab.
- **Removal of Old Play Equipment:** If your play-equipment representative or other safety inspector has determined that your old play equipment is unsafe, it will have to be properly removed and disposed of. Don't forget to remove the concrete anchors beneath the surface!
- **Drainage/Irrigation:** Depending on your site and your plans for landscaping, you may have to prepare a drainage or irrigation system. Consult with your surfacing vendor.
- **Digging Holes:** For equipment that is not surface mount (bolted to a concrete/asphalt/crushed stone surface), you will need to dig holes for the playground posts. If you are hiring a professional installer, he/she will probably supervise this process; include those fees and expenses under Site Preparation/Installation Fees. If you choose to dig the holes on your own, a local construction company may be able to help you.
- **Build Tools & Materials Construction Tools:** Hand tools and power tools for playspace and side-project assembly, in addition to saw horses, wheelbarrows, and tarps for moving loose-fill surfacing/covering dry cement.
- **Construction Materials:** May include cement, temporary fencing, duct tape, cleaning solvents, trash bags, marking paint and tube forms (for supporting post holes.) Include shipping and/or delivery costs if applicable.
- **Tool Van or Trailer:** Storage for tools and materials during the project; choose a vehicle (or shed) with doors that lock

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- **Skilled Operators:** Skilled personnel to operate heavy machinery such as a boom-auger, compact track loader, forklift and/or backhoe.
- **Additional Tools & Materials for Play Environment Side Projects:** These are entirely dependent upon your space, budget, involvement and interests. The examples below are a tiny sampling of possible projects; feel free to create your own!
- **Landscaping:** Trees, shrubs, or plants add beauty and shade to your playspace area.
- **Wooden Benches:** These encourage adult supervision and socialization. You'll need lumber, cutting tools, a drill and extra hardware.
- **Shade Structures:** Protect your kids from the sun! Canopies can use canvas stretched over a wood frame, or a traditional shingle construction. Allow six feet of clearance over the play equipment.
- **Lighting:** Install new lighting fixtures or wiring for added safety.
- **Fencing:** Meant for safety purposes. May include a lockable gate to close the playspace after dark.
- **Murals/ Mosaics/ Maps:** Decorate nearby walls, fences, or pavement; this project can involve children and local artists. Paintings and mosaics are an inexpensive way to add beauty, culture and educational components to your play area.
- **Gardens:** Bring out hobbyists and older folks with butterfly, vegetable, herb and/or flower gardens. Can also be integrated into school science lessons.
- **Sub-Total/ Total Expenses** Add up all of your cost estimates to arrive at your Sub-Total. When estimating your budget, add a buffer of 5% in case of price changes or emergency supply needs. (To do this, multiply the sub-total by 1.05.) You now have your Total Expenses. This is how much money you need to raise!