

Sandpits

The volume of sand in the pit needs to be considered when completing the maintenance programme. An average nursery sandpit is about 3 metres square, with sand 500mm deep it will contain 4.5 cubic metres of sand. Washed silver sand should be supplied for the pit as this won't stain like builders' sand. All sand should be washed before use. Cover the sandpit with a wire mesh to catch leaves and prevent fouling by animals to help keep the sandpit clean when not in use. Don't use a solid cover – this is less effective as it prevents natural cleansing by wind, rain and ultra-violet light.

Routine maintenance

Three forms of routine maintenance are required.

- **Rake the sandpit at least weekly (but preferably daily) to remove toys or other items that may have become buried, and to level the sand.**
- **Fork the sand periodically to mix it up and prevent it becoming compacted.**
- **Treat the sandpit with a sanitising product at least once a month.**
- ToyGuard® Surface Sanitiser is ideal for this regular disinfectant use. Use at the standard concentration (1 part concentrate diluted with 10 parts water) by sprinkling from a watering can fitted with a fine rose onto the surface of the sand.
- Use 0.5 litre of ToyGuard® Surface Sanitiser solution per 1 square metre of sandpit area. The sandpit is ready for use immediately after disinfection.
- Although other child-safe disinfectants may be used, these must be sprinkled on with a watering can and then watered in with a hosepipe, and RoSPA recommend that children should be kept off the sand area for a day after cleaning.
- ToyGuard® Surface Sanitiser does not need to be washed in with a hosepipe and the sandpit is ready for use immediately after treatment. As ToyGuard® Surface Sanitiser leaves long active protection on surfaces to which it has been applied, the treatment remains active between applications and the routine raking will distribute the protection through the bulk of the sand. In this way protection builds with successive applications.

NB The use of these other chemicals may destroy the residual protection from previous ToyGuard® Surface Sanitiser treatments, though it is not hazardous to use ToyGuard® Surface Sanitiser in conjunction with household disinfectants or bleaches.

Remedial treatment

Sand is absorbent and so will contain any fouling or accidental spillage.

- Contamination, together with any affected sand, should be scooped up into a bag and disposed of in the manner permitted by the local authority.
- The freshly exposed area of sand should then be lightly sprayed with ToyGuard® Surface Sanitiser.
- The sand should be raked to level it and to ensure that no fouling has become buried.
- If the clean-up has involved the removal of a large quantity of sand this should be replaced by topping up the sandpit with fresh, washed silver sand.
- The sandpit can be used as soon as the clean-up is complete.