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Quick Home and School Preparation Guide for Playgrounds by [Laura Dudley](#)

Article published on March 14th 2012 | [Recreation](#)

Playgrounds are the perfect place for children to release their pent up energy giving them the chance to run around, climb and jump off the set. For a homeowner, buying and setting up a playground can be cheap and easy. Chances are a homeowner's playground will be smaller, less expensive and easier to setup than a public park or school.

Each buyer--from a homeowner to a park official--will have different needs, and assessing those needs becomes important for choosing the right set at an affordable price. Homeowners in search of a playground set can find small, plastic ones at an online retailer's website, while park and school officials may need to contact specialist to help buy the right type of commercial set for kids.

Homeowner's Playground Guide

Compared to schools, homeowners have it easy when it comes to playgrounds. You look online, buy a set--plastic, wood or aluminum--and build it yourself. Some wood and aluminum sets require additional instructions, but many have smaller setups that do not require specific soil. Since you will likely place the playground in the backyard, you may not have much room for large, commercial-type playgrounds. Instead, you will lean more toward small plastic or wood sets for your children to play on. An outdoor playground for a homeowner can cost anywhere between \$100-\$1000 dollars, and there will be no need to consult an expert, remove brush or install special safety equipment.

Park or School Playground

If you work for a school or park, you will need to consult an expert to inspect the land and soil. The expert will inform you where the best location will be for a set, as well as how the weight of the commercial playground and soil will affect its location. Once the contractor advises you of the best location, you will have to follow additional regulations laid out by the city and state--including how the parking lot must be attached to the playground, bathroom location, type of padding you can use, and any fencing needed. The budget for a school or park playground will be \$10,000 and above to cover the cost of adding sand, wood chips, or padding; paying a contractor; buying the equipment; and building the set. You also must prepare your budget for any additional costs, i.e. removal of any brush or trees and paying for a contractor to place new gravel for a parking lot.

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Article Keywords:
outdoor commercial playground, playground for schools

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