

Rubber Bound Mulch

Rubber-bound mulch, typically manufactured from recycled rubber granules and bonded together using a specialist resin binder, is an increasingly popular surfacing solution for playground environments. Its widespread adoption is largely attributable to the combination of safety, durability, and practicality it offers when installed around play equipment.

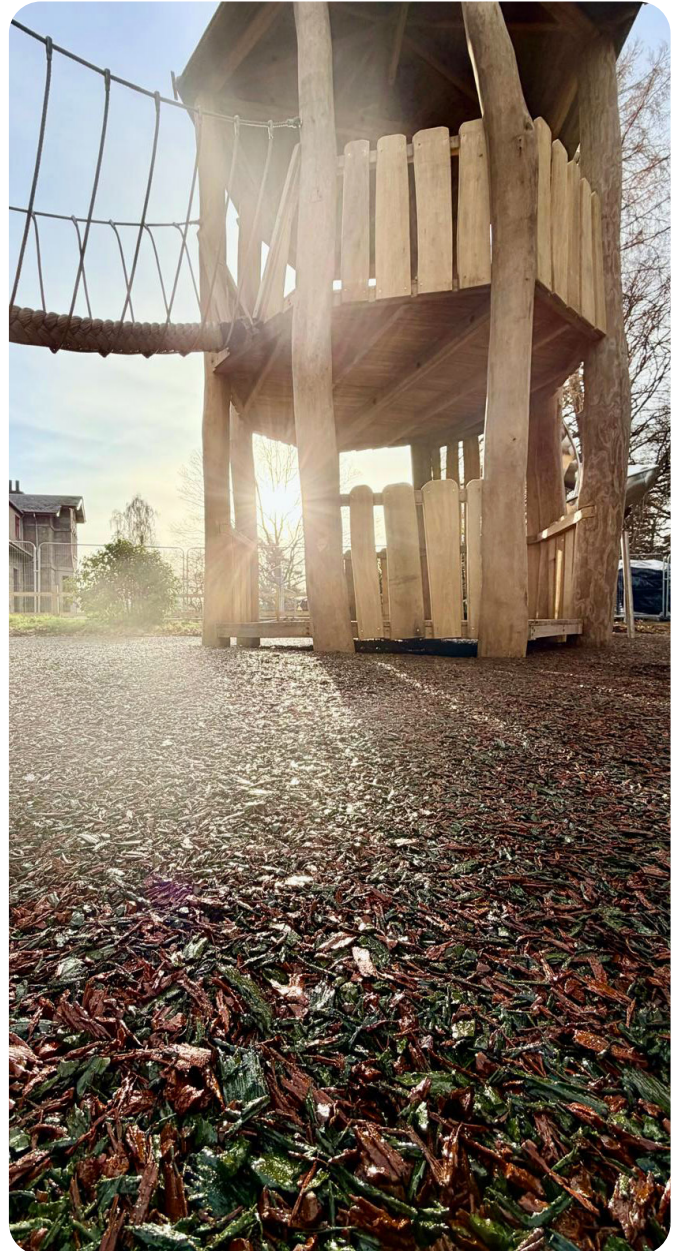
As a result, it is frequently specified for use in schools, public parks, and other recreational settings where both performance and compliance with safety standards are essential.

One of the primary advantages of rubber-bound mulch is its excellent impact-absorbing properties, which significantly reduce the risk of injury from falls. This makes it particularly suitable for areas beneath climbing frames, swings, and slides, where the likelihood of falls is higher.

The surface forms a continuous, even layer, enhancing accessibility for all users, including those with mobility aids such as wheelchairs and pushchairs. This contributes to a more inclusive play environment.

Rubber-bound mulch is highly durable and resistant to a wide range of weather conditions, including heavy rainfall, frost, and prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light. Unlike loose-fill materials, it does not degrade rapidly, scatter, or require frequent replenishment, thereby reducing ongoing maintenance requirements and associated costs. Its porous structure also facilitates efficient drainage, preventing water accumulation and ensuring that the surface remains usable in most weather conditions.

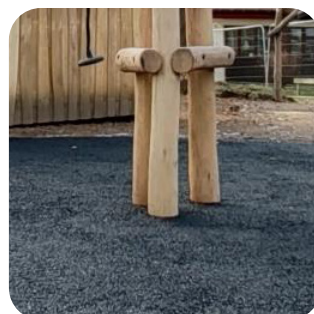
From an environmental perspective, the use of recycled rubber materials supports sustainability objectives by diverting waste from landfill and promoting the reuse of resources. Additionally, the bound nature of the surface helps to maintain cleanliness within the play area, as it does not adhere to footwear or become displaced during use.



Equipment installation



Surface Preparation



SPR Rubber Laying



Final Mulch Installation

Rubber Bound Mulch Practical Benefits

1. Improved Safety & Impact Absorption

One of the biggest advantages is fall protection. Rubber mulch forms a cushioned surface that absorbs impact much better than materials like concrete, grass, or even loose wood chips. This helps reduce the risk of injuries from falls off swings, slides, or climbing frames.

2. Accessibility

Unlike loose-fill materials, rubber-bound mulch creates a firm, even surface. This makes it easier for wheelchairs, pushchairs, and mobility aids to move across, improving inclusivity in play areas.

3. Low Maintenance

Rubber-bound surfaces don't scatter or decompose like wood mulch. You won't need to constantly rake, top up, or replace it. It also doesn't attract pests or grow mold as easily as organic materials.

4. Durability & Longevity

It's highly resistant to weather conditions—rain, frost, and UV exposure don't break it down quickly. A well-installed rubber-bound surface can last many years without significant wear.

5. Good Drainage

The porous structure allows water to drain through easily, preventing puddles and keeping the surface usable even after rain.

6. Cleanliness

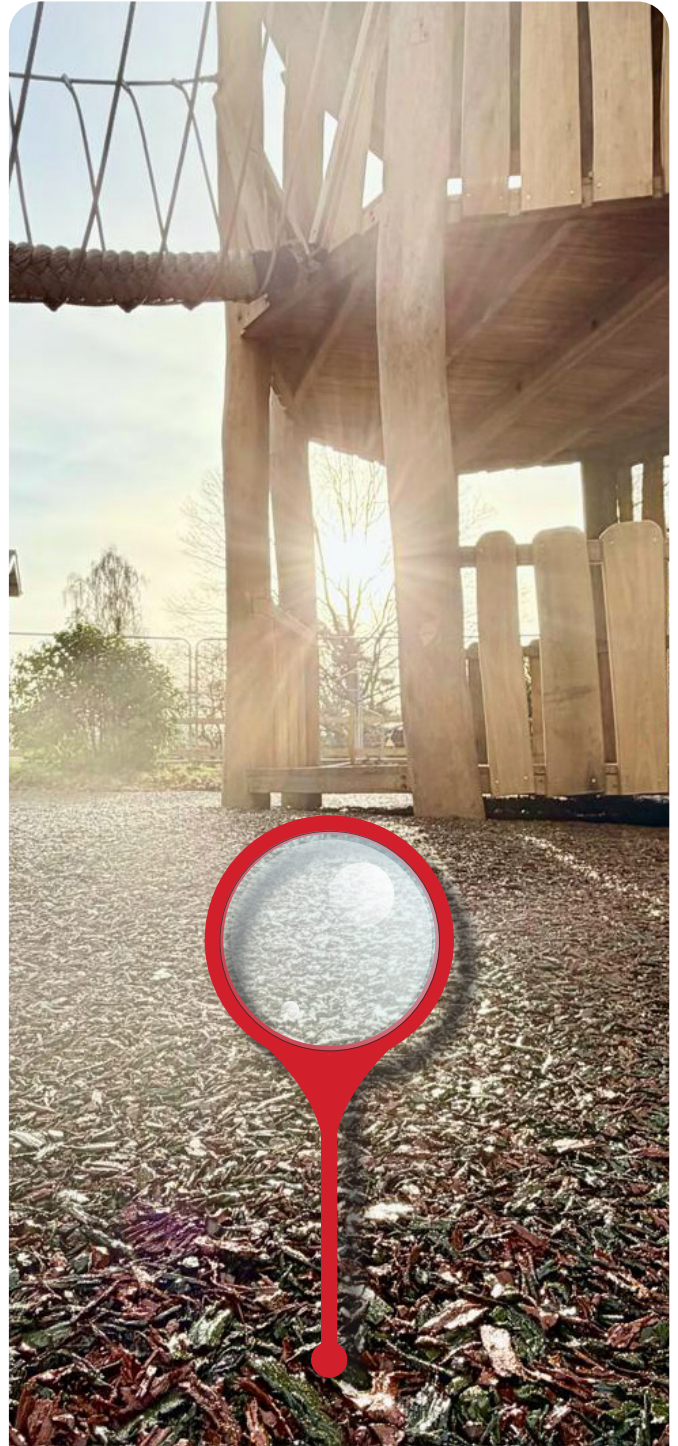
Because it's bound together, it doesn't stick to shoes or get carried away like loose mulch. This keeps surrounding areas cleaner and reduces mess.

7. Environmentally Friendly Option

Many rubber mulches are made from recycled tyres, helping reduce landfill waste and giving materials a second life.

Things to Keep in Mind

While it has many benefits, rubber-bound mulch can have a higher upfront cost compared to loose materials, and proper installation is important to ensure safety standards are met.



Rubber Bound Mulch is available in many different colours. Using a blend of these is a good technique to hide joins of installation over a larger area.

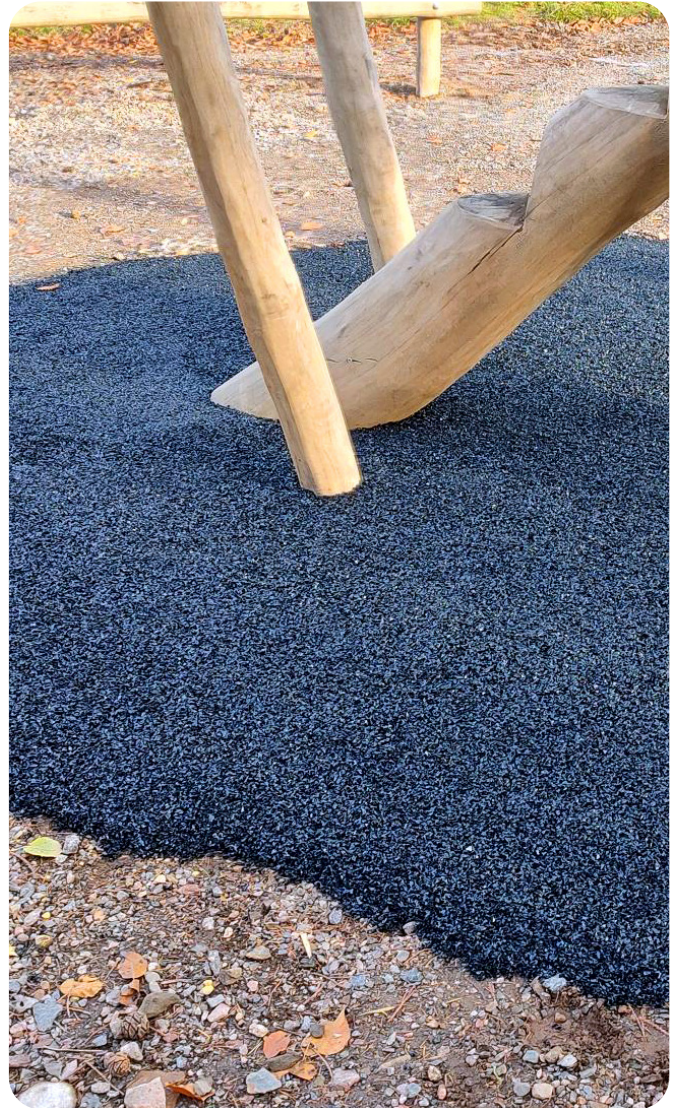
Typical Installation

A typical installation of rubber-bound mulch follows a structured, multi-layered process to ensure safety, durability, and compliance with relevant standards. Initially, the existing ground is excavated to the required depth, usually between 150–250 mm depending on the specified fall height and site conditions. A stable sub-base is then installed, commonly consisting of well-compacted crushed stone or MOT Type 1, to provide a solid and level foundation. In some cases, a geotextile membrane is laid to prevent weed growth and improve stability.

Once the sub-base is prepared, a base layer (often a shock-absorbing layer of rubber crumb or similar material) may be applied if additional impact protection is required. The rubber mulch mixture—comprising recycled rubber granules and a polyurethane resin binder—is then mixed on-site and laid evenly over the surface. It is carefully trowelled to achieve a consistent thickness and a natural mulch-like appearance.

Finally, the surface is left to cure, typically for 24–48 hours depending on weather conditions, during which it hardens to form a durable, porous, and seamless finish. Proper installation by trained professionals is essential to ensure the surface meets safety standards, particularly in relation to critical fall heights and impact attenuation.

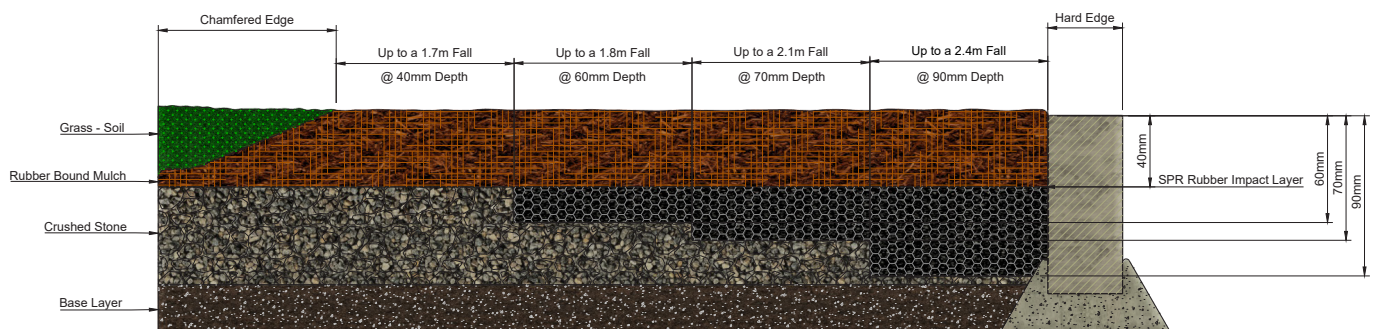
Rubber-bound mulch is available in a variety of colours, allowing for flexible design options in playgrounds and landscaped areas. Using a blend of colours is an effective method for larger installations, as it helps to conceal joins between sections. This creates a more uniform, seamless appearance and improves the overall visual finish of the surface.



Cross Section Installation Depths

The Cross Section blow shows the varying depths of SPR Rubber Granuals which depend on the fall height of the play equipment the Mulch is being installed around.

Many Suppliers have their own formula to which thier surfacing has been tested to, it's always good to check before any baseworks are started.



Robinia Installation

Depending on the specific type and configuration of the structure, installation footprints can vary significantly. More complex or multi-component play equipment typically requires a larger ground coverage to ensure structural stability, maintain recommended safety zones, and facilitate safe user circulation. Variations in footprint are influenced by factors such as timber cross-section dimensions, structural spans, load distribution, and the integration of auxiliary safety or functional elements.

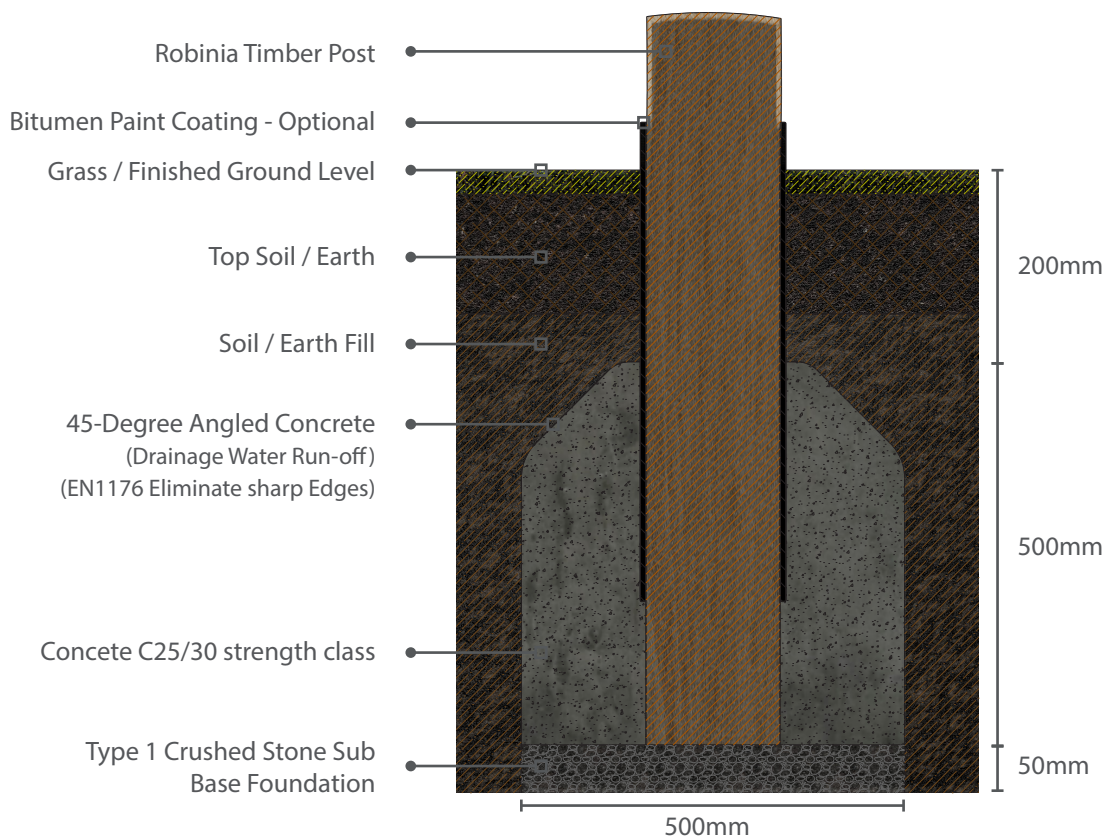
Careful site assessment and planning are therefore essential to maximize performance, safety, and long-term durability.

Overall, Robinia timber offers unmatched natural durability, exceptional density, and superior structural performance, making it an ideal choice for premium, long-lasting play equipment where safety, resilience, and minimal maintenance are paramount.

Robinia timber is typically installed without the need for steel feet or ground anchors. Timbers can be installed directly into the ground, a Bitumen paint coating can be applied prior to installation for an additional level of protection, this is optional.



Typical Robinia Installation Cross Section





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