

Backyard inflatable play structure safety

Backyard inflatable play structures are popular in Canada. However, using them can lead to serious injuries.



Inflatable play structures-related injuries

Inflatable play structures come with the risk of injuries, which can range in severity and can include:

- bruises
- sprains
- broken bones
- head injuries
- suffocation

Injuries from inflatable play structures can happen from:

- bumping or falling into others in the structure, especially if exceeding the recommended number of users
- the structure tipping over or getting lifted by the wind due to improper anchoring or bad weather conditions
- the structure collapsing
- falling off the structure

Safety tips for inflatable play structures



Before setting up your inflatable play structure, read the manufacturer's instructions and follow all guidelines for safe set up and use.

Location

- Choose a location that's safely away from potential hazards like trees, play structures, buildings, fences, overhead powerlines and bodies of water.
- Allow at least 2 metres of clearance on all sides of the inflatable play structure.

Surface

- Set up the inflatable play structure on level ground on a soft surface, like grass. Don't set it up on concrete, asphalt, packed earth or any hard surface because of the risk of fall-related injuries.
- Remove all rocks, sticks and sharp objects under or near the inflatable play structure.

Anchoring

- Securely anchor it to the ground so that it doesn't move, tip over or lift into the air.
- Check that it's stable and won't shift or move when in use.

Power source

- Use the blower that came with the product or a replacement specified by the manufacturer.
- Do not use an extension cord when plugging in the inflatable play structure.

Maintenance

- Check for leaks and damages to the cord, plug and pump regularly. Do not use the product if damaged.
- If using an inflatable water slide, allow to fully dry before putting it away.

Using inflatable play structures indoors is not recommended. Low clearance above and around the play structure as well as challenges anchoring the structure to the ground increase the risk of injury.

Supervision and safer use

- Follow all manufacturer's recommendations for the number of persons allowed at one time, height and size restrictions and age guidelines.
- Make sure there is always active adult supervision during use.
- Don't use inflatable play structures in windy or rainy conditions.
- Don't let children:
 - do flips or somersaults in the structure
 - climb on the walls of the structure
 - climb the ladder at the same time as another child

Stay informed

Before buying, check for product recalls at Canada.ca/recalls.

You can also report an incident involving an inflatable play structure or other consumer product at Canada.ca/report-a-product.

Learn more: Canada.ca/product-safety