

PlaySmart UK's Guide to Grass Mats

With FREE Buyer's Checklist!

When it comes to choosing quality grass mats for your project, the number of different brands, suppliers and optional extras can be a little overwhelming.

So the team here at PlaySmart UK has put together this handy guide to help inform your decision, and ensure you choose the safest, most reliable grass mats available this year!

The following pages cover everything from grass mat basics, to essential safety certification. And there's even an easy-to-use 'Buyers Checklist' for you to print out and use at the end.

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Grass Mats

What are they?

Grass Mats are perforated rubber tiles that stabilise ground conditions and protect users against slips, trips and falls.

While they retain the natural look of grass, they're popular as a neat, safe, durable, surfacing option, which is low maintenance and cost effective.

They're easily installed and allow grass to grow through them.

Since grass mats are made using recycled materials, this means they're both eco-friendly and affordable!



How safe are they?

EcoSmart Grass mats have achieved a 2.9m Critical Fall Height when installed on a good grass base and tested in accordance with British Standard BS EN 1177 (2008).

The fall height achieved will vary, based on the condition and type of surface the mats are installed onto.

PlaySmart have led the way in recommending the use of a foam shock pad system in poor ground conditions or where a Critical Fall Height of over 2m is needed.



What standards should I be looking for?

To make sure you're purchasing a tried-and-tested, quality product, it's essential to look out for the appropriate British Standards.

For grass mats in the UK, make sure they're built and installed in line with:

British Standards 7188

- This determines the product's slip and fall resistance

British Standards 1177

- This determines the product's critical fall height



Why are they popular?

Affordability

- Grass Mats are a cheap but effective surfacing solution, leaving more budget to spend on equipment.
- As they can be laid onto an existing soil or grass surface this removes the cost of groundworks.
- With a quick and easy install process, they reduce labour costs and the time the area is out of use.



Why are they popular?

Durability and Accessibility

- Good quality mats should provide your site surface with a long lifespan
- In the event of damage such as vandalism, it is easy to remove and replace affected mats
- When installed correctly mats are very low maintenance and provide great wheelchair and buggy access



Why are they popular?

Aesthetics and Eco-Friendliness

- Grass mats are designed to let the grass grow through them which keeps a natural look
- Any ground covered with mats is stabilised
- Many good quality mats are made of recycled materials



How should I decide on what brand to use?

- Consider quality rather than price
- Is the product recycled?
- Do they have a product guarantee?
- Have they been tried and tested?



A few reasons to consider PlaySmart

- EcoSmart has always been driven by quality rather than price
- Unique blend of recycled, reclaimed and natural rubber – without padding or metal fibres
- Product Guarantee of 10 years
- Tried and tested since 2003!
- Increased weight of 13.5kg rather than the market average of 11kg
- Reinforced 10mm outer wall gives better strength
- This stops mats ripping or tearing and gives both a better looking finish and longer lasting surface
- This can only mean better value for money!



FireSmart

FireSmart is a superior fire retardant safety surface, exclusive to PlaySmart UK

It's accredited to British Standard BS 7044 and will self-extinguish within 60 seconds of ignition.

This makes it ideal for areas with a risk of vandalism or where popular timber equipment is being used.



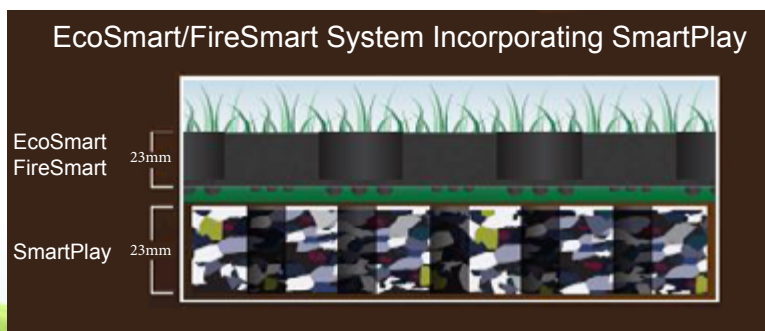
Smart Play

The SmartPlay foam shock-pad system can be installed underneath EcoSmart or FireSmart mats, to standardise ground conditions while keeping the natural grass look

Unlike some other stabilising systems, the base materials used in SmartPlay are already proven for Critical Fall Height protection.

The holes in SmartPlay mean that it is suitable for use in systems where grass needs to grow through.

The system also reduces sinking and movement of grass mats in variable ground making the surface last longer



The Buyer's Checklist

Now that you know exactly what to look out for, you can use our handy buyer's checklist to make sure any grass mats you buy meet all these essential criteria.

- Do the mats meet British Standards 7188?
- Do they meet British Standards 1177?
- Are they made from recycled products?
- Have they been tested to meet the fall heights you need?
- Have they been rigorously tried and tested under proper conditions?
- Do the mats come with a product guarantee?
- Are they thick and heavy enough to be durable, or do they skimp on materials?
- Are your mats being installed by industry leaders who are experienced and reliable?

- Is there a guarantee on their installation process?
- Are sufficient fittings being used to keep the surface securely bound?

If you've answered 'yes' to all of these questions, then congratulations! You've found yourself an excellent product and should feel confident installing them as part of your project!

If you would like to specify the use of EcoSmart, FireSmart or SmartPlay on your next project – please get in touch for pricing.

