



How can basketball rings and backboards be unsafe?

A basketball ring and backboard can cause serious injury and death if it is:

- installed on the exterior of a building, such as a brick wall, roof rafters or above a door; or
- if the wall or post is not strong enough to support it; or
- if the post or brick wall is not regularly checked.

Poorly installed basketball rings and backboards can be fatal.

Preventing injuries and death

- Never allow anyone to hang or swing from a basketball ring and backboard.
- Do not fix a basketball ring and backboard to brickwork, roof rafters or above a door.*
- Do not use a basketball ring and backboard mounted on brickwork, roof rafters or above a door.*

*Unless assessed as safe by a structural engineer or a registered architect.

✓ Fix it

- Follow manufacturer's instructions when attaching the basketball ring and backboard to a post. A mounting board bracket is available from most sporting stores. Check that it is compatible with your chosen basketball ring and backboard.

✓ Secure it

- The basketball post should be:
 - hot-dipped galvanised steel to reduce corrosion and capped at the top to stop water pooling within the post;
 - 90mm in diameter with a steel thickness of 5mm; and
 - 4.8 metres long.
- The basketball post should slide into a steel sleeve that is set into the concrete footing.
- The footing sleeve should be:
 - hot-dipped galvanised steel;
 - 101.6mm in diameter with a steel thickness of 4mm; and
 - at least 800mm long.
- Major hardware stores and steel suppliers should be able to provide this item for you.
- The concrete footing should be:
 - 500mm x 500mm (or 500mm diameter);
 - 1 metre deep;

PLAY IT SAFE

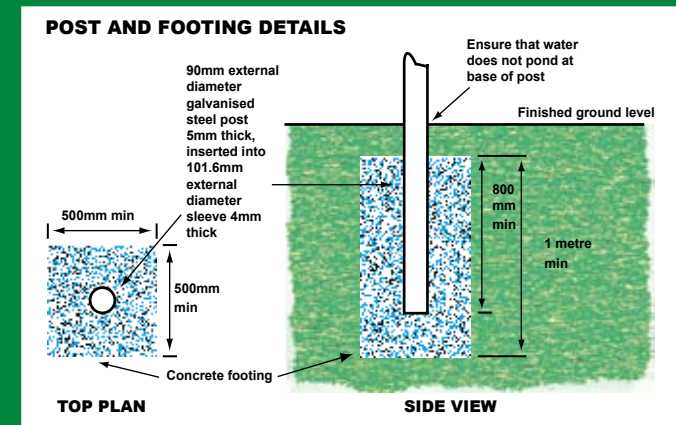
BASKETBALL RING AND BACKBOARD SAFETY

- the footing sleeve should be encased by concrete, with 200mm of concrete beneath the sleeve; and
- approximately 15 bags of 30kg general purpose pre-mixed concrete, mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Alternative systems can be provided by a structural engineer or by the equipment manufacturer.

✓ Test it

- Check the stability of the post, brickwork or any other supporting structure on a regular basis, as it can deteriorate over time.
- Ensure water does not pond at the post-footing connection as this can cause corrosion. This is especially important in salt-water environments.



Safety warnings

Under the *Fair Trading Act 1987* all new basketball rings and backboards sold in Western Australia are required to have labels warning about improper installation and swinging on the ring.

Whitney Perret
Perry Lakes Lady Hawks

“Basketball is a fun sport to play at home. Let’s keep it safe. That means no fixing of rings and backboards to brickwork and no ‘slam dunks’ on rings at home. Let’s protect our children and remember to: fix it – secure it – test it.”



Trent Mayger
Perry Lakes Hawks

“Make sure your basketball rings and backboards are safely and securely installed in the ground. Follow Consumer Protection’s three-step guide and if you are unsure, seek professional advice.”



Play it safe

This safety campaign is endorsed by Basketball WA and KidSafe.

DOCEP acknowledges the support of the Perth Wildcats, Archicentre, the Department of Education and Training, the Western Australian Local Government Association, Basketball WA, the Department of Sport and Recreation and KidSafe WA.



Further information:
For product safety information contact:

Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54
 (for the cost of a local call statewide)
 8.30am – 5.00pm weekdays

Product Safety Unit : 9282 4319

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basketball ring and backboard safety

SAFETY FOR KIDS
 at play 

