

Bouncy Castle Guide

Key safety points for event organisers for the outdoor use of bouncy castles

You MUST hire your bouncy castles from a reputable company who has Public Liability Insurance of £10 million. They must check that it is in good working order before delivering it to site. In some cases the bouncy castle operator will supervise the use of the equipment during the event. In these instances they should refer to the Council's full guidance document on the safe operation of bouncy castles.

In other cases the equipment may be hired but will be supervised by event volunteers. The guidance below is for event organisers who will be responsible for organising the supervision of the equipment during their event.

- Event organisers must adhere to all instructions and guidance provided by the suppliers of a bouncy castle for the event
- The company supplying the equipment should provide adequate instruction to all persons involved in operating the bouncy castle.
- Bouncy castles should not be erected or used in high winds.
- Ensure the bouncy castle is secured to the ground with anchor stakes using all anchorage points so a freak gust of wind doesn't catch it. If the bouncy castle is erected on a hard standing it should be secured using another method e.g. you could anchor it to vehicles.
- Before erecting check the area for debris that may damage the bouncer. You must carry out sufficient investigation to ensure there are no buried services in the designated area, such as an electricity supply, or gas and water pipes, before knocking stakes into the ground.
- Little fingers can get trapped in the inflating mechanism/generator and it may become very hot so make sure it is out of bounds e.g. fence it off. Fuel should be stored in a safe place away from the generator.
- Bouncy castles must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times
- Everyone must remove their shoes before they get on
- Don't go over the maximum number of persons allowed on the bouncy castle at any one time
- Don't let very little children use the bouncy castle at the same time as larger children. Most of the severe injuries that occur on bouncy castles happen when a small child is landed on by somebody bigger and heavier.

- Make sure the ground immediately surrounding the bouncy castle is clear so that if someone were to accidentally bounce off they won't land on anything that could increase the chance of a severe injury.
- Don't let anyone climb on top of the sides of the bouncy castle. They are designed to stop people falling/bouncing off.
- The bouncy castle should not be used if the surface has become wet and slippery.