



# High-Risk Property Checklist

Area/Hazard	Actions to Consider
<b>The Church Baptistry</b>	
<b>Extreme temperatures</b>	Monitor temperatures to avoid water that is too hot or cold. Check the temperature the morning of a baptism and again right before the ceremony to make sure it hasn't changed.
<b>Drowning</b>	Cover the baptistry securely when not in use. Supervise children and others while the tank contains water. Drain the tank promptly after the service.
<b>Electrocution</b>	Avoid using wired sound equipment. Instead, use a wireless microphone. Only use a heater designed for water use, have it professionally installed and inspect it regularly.
<b>Injuries</b>	Prevent falls with handrails and no-slip surfaces on stairs and walkways.
<b>Water damage</b>	An overflowing baptistry can cause water damage to floors, walls and equipment. Monitor the water level closely while the tank is filling. Inspect pipes periodically.
<b>Mold</b>	Drain and clean the tank after baptisms. Do not allow used water to sit for long periods.
<b>The Church Playground</b>	
<b>Surface materials</b>	Use acceptable surface materials (such as woodchips, crumb rubber, engineered wood fiber, sand, mulch or pea gravel) to cushion falls. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Surface areas</b>	Ensure that surfacing extends a minimum of 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. Extend safe surfacing further for in front of and behind swings by twice the height of the suspending bar. <sup>2</sup>

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## The Church Playground (continued)

<b>Hazards</b>	Remove tripping hazards and check for sharp edges or protruding components. Ensure that spaces in equipment that could trap children measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Inspections</b>	Inspect playground equipment regularly for damage, cracks, rust, loose anchoring, trash and vandalism. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Repairs</b>	Restrict access to equipment that needs repair. Post a sign indicating that the equipment is not in use.
<b>Supervision</b>	During church activities, provide proper supervision by staff or volunteers.

## The Church Parking Lot

<b>Lighting</b>	Keep the parking lot well-lit for high visibility.
<b>Signage</b>	Mark entrances, exits, speed limits and other important information with clear signage.
<b>Crosswalks</b>	Mark crosswalks to help keep pedestrians safe as they travel from their cars to your building.
<b>Accessible parking spaces</b>	Designate parking spaces that comply with accessibility regulations for those with disabilities.
<b>Inspection</b>	Regularly inspect the parking lot for tripping hazards such as rocks, debris and trash. Practice routine maintenance to repair potholes and replace light bulbs as needed.
<b>Handrails</b>	Install handrails near steps and ramps to make navigation easier.

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## The Church Parking Lot (continued)

### Church video surveillance

Video monitoring can help deter criminals, make your congregation feel safer and assist police in identifying perpetrators.

### Landscaping

Minimize shrubs and other landscaping that could serve as a hiding place for criminals.

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This checklist is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be construed as legal advice. Readers should use this article as a tool, along with best judgment and any terms or conditions that apply, to determine appropriate policies and procedures for your church's risk management program.

<sup>1</sup>[cehn.org/our-work/eco-healthy-child-care/ehcc-faqs/playground-surfaces](https://cehn.org/our-work/eco-healthy-child-care/ehcc-faqs/playground-surfaces)

<sup>2</sup>[cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/playgrounds/public-playground-safety-checklist](https://cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/playgrounds/public-playground-safety-checklist)

<sup>3</sup>[nrpa.org/siteassets/the-daily-dozen-12-point-playground-safety-checklist.pdf](https://nrpa.org/siteassets/the-daily-dozen-12-point-playground-safety-checklist.pdf)