

Traverse climbing walls are becoming more popular and it is a good exercise for kids in balance and strength. If this is an activity you are doing or thinking about doing, there are some precautions you will want to consider. PACE does not recommend installing a traverse climbing wall outside. This would create an attractive nuisance and would not allow for proper supervision.

- The climbing wall should be installed by a certified contractor to ensure it is installed per manufacturer's specifications.
- The average height of a traverse wall is 8 to 10 feet high. The length of the wall will be up to you.
- Appropriate fall surfacing should be in place. The height of the wall will determine the thickness of the surface matting needed.
- Direct supervision needs to be in place any time the wall is used.
- Students should be spaced out far enough to prevent falling into one another or climbing over each other.
- The wall, mats and handholds should be inspected on a regular basis and documented. At a minimum PACE recommends inspecting walls monthly. If the walls are not used on a consistent basis throughout the year, inspections could be done prior to each use. The manufacturer should be consulted to guide the inspection.
- A climbing wall is an attractive nuisance when not in use. The wall needs to be secured when not in use. This can be done by securing the mats over the handholds. If the mats do not fold up, lock the doors to this area and place signs that state, "no use without supervision."
- Create a safety manual pertaining to the climbing wall that includes when the wall was installed, who installed it, when inspections are done and any training requirements. As staff change or move, this manual will benefit the next person who takes over.

If you decide to install a climbing wall that includes the use of belay lines, ropes and carabiners, this type of wall is more hazardous and has additional requirements. Please contact Risk Management for additional information.



If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding your climbing wall, please contact Risk Management at 800-285-5461 or riskmanagement@sdao.com.