



# **Slide Retainer Kit**

## **Installation Instructions**

NOTES: Please check for any damage caused by the shipping company and take appropriate steps to file a claim, if needed.

\*Please call **Digsafe** and check for any underground utilities before digging anywhere.

### **Materials needed**

All 6 x 6 retainers with articulated ends, and the retainers that butt against the slide foot; rebar (included), 10" spikes (included), 3 pound sledgehammer, 4'-6' level, carpenters square, string, shovel, mini excavator or other means to excavate the 12 inch deep fall zone, 4 inch perforated drainage pipe with sleeve (not included), fall zone material (not included).

### **Instructions**

1. Remove items from pallet or packaging, and check to make sure there is no damage and that you have everything you need. Note that the retainers are lettered starting with the letter A, and running clockwise. The back tier of retainers is lettered and numbered, starting with A-1.
2. After you have the embankment slide hill properly shaped and at the 35° slope, and you have your slide in the correct position or you know exactly where the foot is going to be, the easiest way to install this kit is to lay it out according to the plan, and then excavate the hole afterwards.
3. If you keep the area where the fall zone is going to be as undisturbed as possible, then the retainers will lie and be fastened into solid ground. If you have to level off the area where the fall zone is going to be, do it carefully so you don't over-excavate and then have to fill it back in to create the level platform on which the retainers sit. The more solid ground under the retainers, the easier the installation will be.
4. In any case, make sure that the shelf of ground under the back retainers is level ~7 feet out from both sides of the foot (perpendicular to the run of the slide). Then use this level section to make sure that the rest of the fall zone area is also level. Again, do not over excavate!
5. Consult the detail for the shape of the fall zone, and lay out the retainers in this approximate shape, overlapping the articulated ends, and placing/driving a rebar through each joint, BUT NOT into the ground.
6. The angle cut on the ends of the first/ground layer of the retainers along the back that butt up against the slide foot should be a nice and tight fit against the foot, so start there.
7. Once those are located precisely where you want them, and the retainer is on both sides of the foot are level with each other, drive the rebar through the holes near the slide, and all the way into the ground so that the top of the rebar is flush with the top of the retainer.
8. Next, make sure that the back retainers on both sides of the slide foot are perpendicular to the run of the slide. Make any adjustments needed.
9. also make sure that the fronts of the retainers on both sides of the foot are lined up and create a single flat plane. Use the string to check. Check again to make sure that this entire back row of retainers is perpendicular to the slide.
10. Now move to the left and right 90° corners, and drive those rebars halfway into the ground. Square up the corners using your carpenters square, and then drive the corner rebars in all the way until the tops are flush with the retainer.
11. Now it's a matter of adjusting the remaining retainers so that the center of the middle retainer (the one that is directly in front of, and furthest away from the slide) is lined up with the middle of the slide.
12. Once everything looks perfect, drive in all the rebars until their tops are flush with the retainers.
13. You are now ready to install the second layer of retainers on top of the back row, and wrapping around both ends. Lay these out so the faces line up with the first row of retainers, and use the 10 inch spikes through the predrilled holes to fasten this layer down to the first one. Use the structural screws to fasten down the two corners. Then drive 2 spikes in the predrilled holes in both short retainers.

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14. Check the heads of all rebar to make sure there are no sharp burrs. If you find any, either file them smooth or use a large set to drive them further into the wood.
15. Now you are ready to excavate the hole. However, because the fall zone is a hole in the ground, you may want to wait until you have completed all your work on the slide before digging it. When you are ready, we recommend a 12 inch depth. Do NOT disturb the earth within 6 inches of the retainers, so if you are using a mini excavator, be extra cautious, and do any fine work that is anywhere near the retainers using a shovel. Once the majority of the earth has been removed, then you can go back in with the shovel and carefully taper the shelf on which the retainer sit.
16. Because this is a hole in the ground, you will also need to install drainage, so determine where the trench for the perforated pipe is going to be located, and staying at least 6 inches away from the outside of the retainers, dig the trench. Then carefully excavate the trench under the retainer using the shovel.
17. Layout the perforated pipe in the hole and trench.
18. You are now ready to backfill the trench and fill in the fall zone with right your chosen fall zone material.
19. All wood is treated with kid-friendly preservative, but as is the case with all wood facing the elements, it needs to be cared for, so check it periodically for rough spots, splinters, etc, and sand them out, and treat it with kid-friendly wood preservative (we have it available if you can't find it) once or twice a year to keep the wood from deteriorating.
20. Enjoy!