

School Environment Team (SET) Project

Adjacent School Grounds Checklist Line Item Explanations

The following material explains, line by line, why an item is on the checklist. This document follows in order of the checklist for easy reference. Remember that each person's opinion as to what an odor is or what the cause of a problem is may differ from another persons. As you make observations, try not to interpret what you see, smell, feel or hear.

1. Removal of litter is important to prevent disease and to discourage insects and odors.
2. Intact sidewalks prevent trip hazards.
3. Presence of insect populations is a health & safety hazard to those who are sensitive or have allergies.
4. Awnings are not preferred for safety reasons but when present they need to be secured & leak free.
5. Shrubbery near vents or windows may obstruct airflow and/or increase pollutants into the building.
6. If trees are close to building(s), students could gain access to low roofs. This is a safety concern.
7. Broken windows are both a security risk and interfere with the proper running of the HVAC system.
8. For security, windows should be closed. Open windows interfere with the operation of the HVAC.
9. For security, Exit doors should be closed. Open doors also interfere with the operation of the HVAC.
10. Pooling stagnant water can lead to insect populations and potential growth of bacteria. This does not refer to 'settlement ponds'.
11. Intact exterior building veneer prevents water incursion from outside the buildings.
12. Intact exterior lights are a safety issue. Report any damaged or non-functioning light fixtures.
13. Intact gutters and downspouts are necessary to allow water to move away from the building. Report any damaged or non-functioning gutters and downspouts fixtures.
14. No stain from roof on outside walls indicates that gutters and downspouts appear clear and working.
15. To promote safety, dumpsters should not be accessible to children. Covers or lids should be in the shut position.
16. Dumpsters should be located away from air intakes to prevent odors from entering the building.
17. Garbage and Recycling bins need to be clearly marked to prevent confusion and promote environmental awareness and protection.
18. Sidewalks and black tops should be free of any turf applications (ie granular or powder). Proper application of turf products instructs the applicator to remove any residue from non-turf surfaces. This is done to prevent potential exposures.
19. Plant beds should appear maintained minimizing the need for chemical applications for weed removal.
20. Insect populations should not be in evidence among landscaping to prevent the need for chemical applications.
21. Landscaping and turf appear healthy and disease free.