Frequently asked questions

1. The guidelines say not to fix a basketball ring or backboard to a single skin of brickwork – does this mean double brick or other materials are okay?

No, it does not. For structures made from double brick or other materials, it is recommended that you engage an engineer to ensure the wall and the proposed fixings are adequate and safe for that purpose.

2. Why do I need to consult a structural engineer?

A brick wall and other structures are generally not designed to resist impact forces that would be applied by the use of a basketball ring and backboard. A number of factors need to be taken into consideration by the engineer when calculating the structural adequacy. These factors will include the height of the wall, the thickness of the wall and the stability of the brickwork, just to name a few.

3. What is a normal suburban backyard?

This means a typical residential block with an area up to approximately 1000m^2, and surrounded by other similar blocks. Larger allotments facing the ocean or farmland can have high wind loads that would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. What is the difference between a hot dip galvanised steel post and an ordinary galvanised steel post?

Hot dipped galvanised steel has a longer life than ordinary galvanised steel. This will help resist rusting at ground level.

5. Why do I need to check the post or brick wall regularly? How often should this be done?

Materials can deteriorate when exposed to the elements. In addition, fixings (such as bolts and screws) can loosen with the constant "banging" of basketballs on the backboard and ring. A general visual inspection every three months should identify any problems. Your inspection should include:

- The fixings of the post to the ground
- The fixings of the ring to the backboard
- The fixings of the backboard to the supporting structure
- The condition of the supporting structure, especially where a backboard and ring are fixed to a wall.

Need more information?

For basketball safety information, call Basketball Victoria on +61 3 9927 6666 or contact the Building Commission on

Telephone +61 3 9285 6400 1300 360 380
Facsimile +61 3 9285 6464
Level 27, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

publicrelations@buildingcommission.com.au
www.buildingcommission.com.au

Printed February 2006

Victoria
The Place To Be

Building Commission

What you need to know about

Safe installation of basketball rings

Building Commission

Are there guidelines for installing basketball rings?

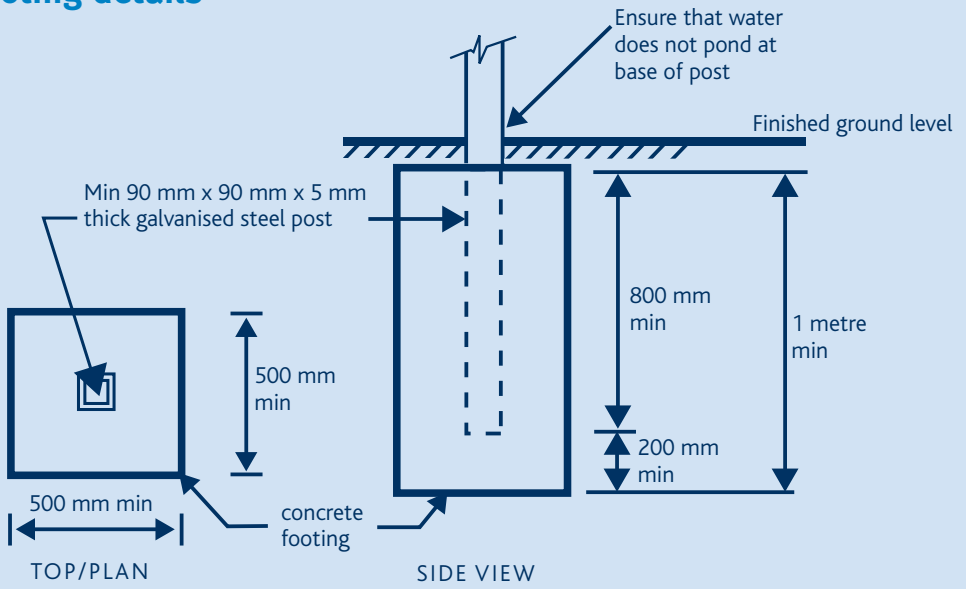
The Building Commission has developed simple guidelines for the installation, safe use and maintenance of basketball rings.

How do I install a basketball ring safely?

The following guidelines will reduce the risk of accidental injury or death:

1. Always tell children to **never hang or swing off the ring**
2. Dismantle any ring and backboard currently mounted on a single skin of brickwork – such as brickwork above a garage door
3. Do not fix any ring and backboard under any circumstances to a single skin of brickwork
4. Do not use any ring and backboard currently mounted on any brickwork until it has been checked for structural safety. If you plan to fix a ring and backboard to brickwork or any other structure, you should consult a structural engineer
5. A ring and backboard in normal suburban backyards, should ideally be fixed to a hot dip galvanised steel post – 90 mm x 90 mm with a 5 mm wall thickness. The post should be set at least 800 mm into a mass concrete footing 500 mm x 500 mm (or 500 mm diameter) by 1 metre deep. Alternative systems can be provided by a structural engineer or by the equipment manufacturer
6. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when attaching the basketball ring to the backboard, and the backboard to the post

Post and footing details



7. Check the stability of the post, brick wall or any other supporting structure on a regular basis, as it can deteriorate over time
8. Ensure that water does not pond at the post – footing connection, this is especially important in salt water environments
9. If there is any doubt about the safety or stability of an installation, consult a structural engineer.

These guidelines were developed with the assistance of:

- Acromat
- Archicentre
- Association of Consulting Structural Engineers of Victoria
- Basketball Australia
- Basketball Victoria
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Department of Tourism, Sport & Commonwealth Games
- IEAust
- Kidsafe
- Monash University Accident Research Centre
- Monash University Civil Engineering Department
- Municipal Association Victoria
- National Basketball League
- Victorian Local Governance Association
- Victorian Municipal Building Surveyors Group Inc