

# About...

## Basketball rings

This VBA information sheet is for help installing and maintaining basketball rings in residential yards. If not properly installed and maintained, basketball rings can be a serious life safety risk.

### How do I install a basketball ring safely?

You should not use a basketball ring or backboard that's attached or mounted to a single skin of brickwork.

Single skin brickwork is when there is only one layer of bricks that make up the wall, often found in garages or low level fences.

If you do have a basketball ring or backboard attached to single skin of brickwork, it should be safely taken down straight away.

### Attaching a ring or backboard

If you plan to attach a ring and backboard to brickwork or any other structure, you should consult a structural engineer.

A ring and backboard should ideally be fixed to a hot dip, galvanized steel post. It should be 90mm (9cm) x 90mm with a 5mm (0.5cm) wall thickness.

The post should be set at least 800mm (80cm) into a mass concrete footing 500mm (50cm) x 500mm (or 500mm diameter) x 1000mm (1m) deep.

Alternative systems can be provided by a structural engineer or by the equipment manufacturer.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when attaching the basketball ring to the backboard and the backboard to the post.

### Maintaining the ring or backboard

Check the stability of the post, brick wall or any other supporting structure on a regular basis, as it can deteriorate over time.

Water can collect at the base of the basketball post, so it's important to check the space regularly. This is especially critical in salt water environments.

If there is any doubt about the safety or stability of an installation, consult a structural engineer.



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.

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.

### What kind of brickwork should a ring or backboard be fixed to?

Never fix a basketball ring to a single skin of brickwork.

For structures made from double brick or other materials, it's recommended that you contact a structural engineer to check the wall and the proposed fixings are adequate and safe.

### 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 and thickness of the wall and the stability of the brickwork.

### Who to contact for more information

If you would like more information about installing and maintaining basketball rings, contact the VBA on 1300 815 127 or [customerservice@vba.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@vba.vic.gov.au).

You can search for a registered building practitioner at [www.vba.vic.gov.au](http://www.vba.vic.gov.au).