

# KNOW YOUR INFLATBLE?

## *DID you know?*

Maryland's Safety Inspection Unit completes over 6,000 amusement attraction inspections annually.

Variety of Shapes and Sizes – inflatable attractions come in castles, obstacle courses, slides, zip lines and even water-based designs.

Largest Inflatable House – The world's biggest inflatable attraction is over 12,000 square feet and features obstacle courses, ball pits, and slides.



## Three easy steps to operate in Maryland

- Register your inflatable with the State.
- Provide the State of Maryland with a certificate of insurance.
- Request a State inspection before operating to the public.

Requests can be made here:

[AR.request@maryland.gov](mailto:AR.request@maryland.gov)



## Who We Are

**The Safety Inspection Unit (SIU) within the Maryland Department of Labor conducts inspections of inflatable amusement attractions. To assist with ensuring the safe operation of inflatable amusement attractions, the SIU is outlining key steps for owners to help maintain a safe environment for users:**

### Pre-Event Site Inspection

- Review manufacturers manual on specific operating requirements and specifications for the inflatable attraction. Manual is required to be on site during operations.
- Maintain Required Documentation: Ensure that a pre opening inspection checklist is completed prior to operations. (available @maryland.gov) Training documentation and maintenance logs shall be completed and recommended to be on site during operations.
- **Surface Check:** Ensure the setup area is level, stable and free of sharp objects, debris, or uneven surfaces that could damage the inflatable or pose tripping hazards.

- **Space Clearance:** Verify adequate space around the inflatable for safe entry, exit, and use, typically a clearance of at least 4 feet.
- **Overhead Clearance:** Check for overhead obstructions, such as tree branches, power lines, or structures that could interfere with the inflatable's operation.
- **Ground Anchoring Points:** Anchored or secured in accordance with the manufacturers specifications. Anchors shall be used at all of the manufacturers required positions at all times for both indoor and outdoor use.
- **Cleanliness:** Make sure the inflatable is clean and free of any debris or residue that could affect its performance or safety.
- **Blowers and Cords:** Inspect the blowers and electrical cords for any damage. Flexible cords and extension cords sets shall be continuous without splice or tap between connectors

### Proper Anchoring and Securing

- **Ground Stakes:** Use the appropriate number of ground stakes as provided in the manufacturer's specifications, usually a minimum of four to eight, depending on the size of the inflatable. For inflatables operating outside, Stakes should be a minimum of 30-42 inches with 75% of the stake in the ground unless specified otherwise by the manufacturer. A minimum of an 18 inch stake is required.

- **Sandbags or Weights:** For setups on hard surfaces indoor or outdoor where stakes cannot be used, secure the inflatable with sandbags minimum of 75lbs or other weights specifically designed for the purpose of securing the inflatable specified by the manufacturer.
- **Ropes and Straps:** Check that all ropes and straps used for anchoring are in good condition and securely fastened to the inflatable and the anchoring points.
- **Wind Conditions:** Always monitor wind conditions. **If the wind speed exceeds 15 mph, please consult the manufacturer's recommendation on wind speeds and operating requirements.**
- When the wind exceeds the manufacturer's specifications, an owner is required to deflate and secure the inflatable immediately.
- **Circuit Breakers:** Use circuit breakers or GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlets to prevent electrical shock hazards.

### **Inflatable Operation and Monitoring**

- **Proper Inflation:** Ensure the inflatable is fully inflated per manufacturer's specifications. Under-inflation can compromise structural integrity.
- **Weight and Capacity Limits:** Adhere to the manufacturer's weight and capacity limits for the inflatable. An owner should clearly communicate these limits to users and monitor compliance.

- **Supervision:** Assign a trained operator to supervise the inflatable at all times. The operator should be familiar with safety rules and know how to respond in case of an emergency.

### **Post-Event Procedures**

- **Deflation and Storage:** Consult your manufacturer's manual for best safe practices for deflation and storage. Turn off the blower and allow the inflatable to deflate completely. Fold and roll it carefully to avoid creases or damage. Store in a dry, cool place to prevent mold or mildew.
- **Post-Use Inspection:** Check the inflatable again for any damage or wear that may have occurred during use. Address any repairs before the next event. Follow any recommendations from the manufacturer.
- **Cleaning:** Clean the inflatable thoroughly before storing it. Remove any dirt, debris, or moisture to maintain its condition and longevity.

**By following this guide, an owner can ensure that their inflatable attractions are operated safely**

**See something? Say something!**

**“It may save a life.”**



The Safety Inspection Unit would like to thank you for choosing to review this important information on how to operate an inflatable amusement attraction safely. Thank you for being a part of...

***“Keeping Marylanders safe!”***

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the **State of Maryland Amusement Attraction Safety** at:

**[AR.Direct@maryland.gov](mailto:AR.Direct@maryland.gov)**

Please visit our website for additional information:

<https://www.labor.maryland.gov/labor/safety/amus.shtml>