

The Dangers of Furniture Tip-Over



Safe Nursery Action Group Members:

Nan Peterson
Safe Kids Coordinator
American Family
Children's Hospital
(608) 262-9993

Lisa Bullard-Cawthorne
Daniel Stattelmann-Scanlan
Amy Vieth
Public Health -
Madison & Dane County

Mary Bradley
Child Safety Advocate

John E Stanley
Dane County Coroner

Jim Savage
Kohl Safety Center

Michelle Reinen
WI DATCP
(608) 224-5160

Informational Resources:

US Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov

Safe Kids Worldwide
www.safekids.org

Do you know what can happen when furniture tips over?

Young children love to climb on furniture and use drawers and shelves as steps. However, young children can suffer serious injuries to the head and chest as the furniture can easily tip over onto them.

Favorite toys sitting on a television, bookcase or dresser might tempt a child to reach for it. However, in reaching for the toy, the child may climb up a bookcase or a dresser that tips over onto the child. The child may also pull a television off a cart or stand onto themselves; especially while watching an interactive children's television show or playing video games.

Don't underestimate the possibility of a child being crushed by unsteady furniture.

Remember it takes just a few seconds for furniture to tip-over!

Injury Facts

In the United States, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year furniture tip-over causes:

- 3,000 children younger than 5, to go to the emergency room with severe head and chest injuries.
- Approximately 22 deaths as a result of the injuries. More than 80% involving young children.
- In 2006 alone, there were 31 deaths and approximately 3,000 injuries.

The Risks

Dangerous situations that cause injury when large items tip over onto children:

- Reaching to grab an out of reach item
- Climbing on unstable furniture
- Pulling themselves up using the furniture
- Pushing, leaning or swinging on heavy objects

Keep Your Child Safe around Furniture

- Secure items with brackets and anchors. Often brackets and anchors are provided by the manufacturer; follow their instructions for securing the item. Furniture that should be secured to prevent tip-over includes:

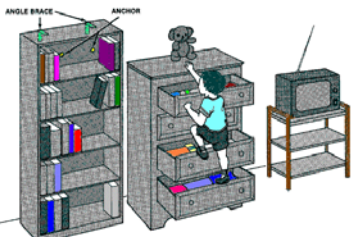


Dressers
Bookcases
Televisions
Television stands
Desks
Appliances

Entertainment Centers
Wheeled Furniture
Chest of Drawers
File Cabinets
Computer monitors
Fish Tanks



- If you cannot secure items to a wall, consider installing latches on lower dresser drawers. Also consider taking the wheels off of tv/microwave carts and stands.
- Use broad-based stands, without wheels, for TV's and appliances.
- Keep tempting things out of sight and off of high furniture that can easily tip over.
- When storing items, place heavier items on bottom shelves and in bottom drawers.
- Injuries happen in seconds, whether furniture is secured or not. Supervision is the key and there is nothing that can replace it!



WARNING
Young children can be killed when furniture tips over.
Place TVs on lower furniture, as far back as possible.
Use angle-braces or anchors to secure furniture to wall.