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## Glass table hazard

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Glass coffee tables are sleek. They're stylish. They're modern, but more than 15,000 people are injured by glass furniture each year, many seriously.

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Glass tables can be dangerous because they can break easily. 9NEWS Consumer Reporter Mark Koebrich finds out more. 9NEWS at 4 p.m. May 25, 2006.

Emergency room doctors say they have seen many children who've been severely cut by a glass table.

It often happens when the children are jumping on the couch, and they lose their balance and fall into a glass coffee table, breaking through it.

*Consumer Reports* says there are no safety standards for glass tables, but there should be.

*Consumer Reports* has tested glass tables and finds those made of regular glass (also called annealed glass) breaks into large jagged pieces, which can cause big gashes. Also, are tables made of tempered glass or safety glass? It breaks into very small pieces. So there are no jagged edges and won't cut as severely.

Unfortunately it's not easy to tell what kind of glass a table is made of. You can't tell by just looking at it. You really have to rely on the manufacturer telling you whether that's safety glass in their tables.

*Consumer Reports* says if a table isn't labeled safety glass, assume it isn't.

Also, *Consumer Reports* says if you have a glass table in your home, it's best to replace the glass with safety glass. Even better, you can substitute the glass with polished wood.

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(Consumer Reports)

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