



Preventing accidental injury.



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Prevent Furniture Tipovers and Entrapment

The [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) estimates that 8,000 to 10,000 people — mostly children — each year go to the emergency room with injuries from furniture tipping over, and about six are killed. Kids can be seriously injured or killed as a result of climbing on shelves, bookcases, dressers, TV tables and other furniture.

If a piece of furniture is top-heavy or unstable, fasten it to a wall using angle braces or anchors. Keep heavier items on lower shelves or in lower drawers. Televisions, stereos or favorite toys sitting on a table or stand might entice a child to reach for the top and pull down the object, the stand or both.

Tie up loose cords, too — a child pulling on an electrical cord, or tripping on one, could pull an appliance off a stand.

Federal legislation proposed in response to several child fatalities from furniture-related head injuries would require that any furniture in danger of tipping over carry a warning label and be sold with anchoring devices and instructions.

Kids are also in danger of suffocation if they become accidentally trapped in a cabinet, toy chest or laundry machine; there are also at least 45 known cases since 1975 in which a child has been trapped and strangled under the lid of a toy chest. Always supervise children around any confined space and keep the doors closed and locked.

Toy chests that meet voluntary standards set by the CPSC are equipped with lid supports that hold the lid open in any position. The standards also call for ventilation holes to prevent suffocation. If you have a toy chest with a lid that doesn't stay open, the CPSC recommends you remove the lid or install a spring-loaded lid support.

These are not hazards that kill thousands of children every year, like vehicle crashes or drowning, but they are so easy to prevent and the consequences can be so severe. Don't underestimate the possibility of a small child being crushed by unsteady furniture.

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