

# Furniture Tip-Overs



*Most parents do not think of furniture and TVs as dangerous. However, when these items tip-over, serious injury can and does occur.*

## Furniture Tip-over Facts

- More than 40 children younger than 18 years of age visit the emergency department each day for injuries from furniture tip-overs.
- Among all tip-over injuries, TV tip-overs cause the most injuries for children younger than 10 years.
- Desks, cabinets and bookshelves tipping over lead to the greatest number of tip-over injuries to children ages 10-17 years.

## What Causes Tip-overs?

- Most injuries occur when unsecured furniture falls or tips-over.
- Many times a child pulls the furniture onto himself.
- Other causes include children climbing the furniture or pushing it over on another child.
- Young children are not able to think about the danger of their actions. They are often not fast enough to avoid a falling piece of furniture, or strong enough to lift the furniture off of themselves if they are trapped.

## Prevention Tips

- Place the TV on a low, wide base, and push it as far back on its base as possible. Check that the size and weight limit of the stand will hold your TV.
- Do not use shelves or dressers as TV stands. These are not made to support the weight of a TV.
- Strap all TVs to a stable stand and/or wall.
- Keep cords from TVs and other appliances tucked away so a child does not pull these items down on himself.
- Do not place items of interest (toys, remote control) high on shelves or on top of the TV. Children may try to climb up the furniture to reach these items.
- Attach large furniture, such as dressers and bookshelves, to the wall using safety straps, L-brackets, or other secure attachment devices.
- Safety straps are available that do not require drilling holes in furniture and can secure items up to 100 lbs.
- Place heavy items on lower shelves of bookcases or entertainment centers.
- Use desks with wide legs or solid bases.
- Install drawer stops on all drawers.



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For more information, please contact the Child Injury Prevention Alliance at (614) 398-CIPA (2472), [www.childinjurypreventionalliance.org](http://www.childinjurypreventionalliance.org) or [info@childinjurypreventionalliance.org](mailto:info@childinjurypreventionalliance.org)

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