



WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network

Furniture Tip-over Injuries



This report was produced by Kidsafe WA in collaboration with members of the WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**
Consumer Protection



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About the WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network

The WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network (WA CPAN) was established in October 2014 with the support of the Department of Health Western Australia. WA CPAN provides leadership to ensure ongoing and emerging injury issues associated with unsafe products are identified and minimised, with a focus on products used by children. The network consists of representatives from organisations who are involved in the regulation, safe use, injury prevention, treatment and sale of products for use by consumers. These organisations include:

- the Department of Health Western Australia, Public Health Division
- the Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department
- the WA Poisons Information Centre
- the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- the Burns Injury Research Unit - School of Surgery University of Western Australia
- the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (previously known as the Department of Commerce)
- Goodstart Early Learning
- Kidsafe Western Australia

Products identified through the network are prioritised according to the level of risk posed or safety concerns raised by WA CPAN members. A documented action plan then supports the ability to advocate for change. The network aims to explore solutions for identified unsafe products and ultimately reduce the number and severity of childhood injuries related to consumer products.

WA CPAN members meet every two months, with approximately six meetings per year.

Report Overview

This report provides an overview of injuries to Western Australian children resulting from furniture tip-overs. The report also outlines the actions taken by WA CPAN to address the issue and to raise community awareness of furniture tip-over injuries.

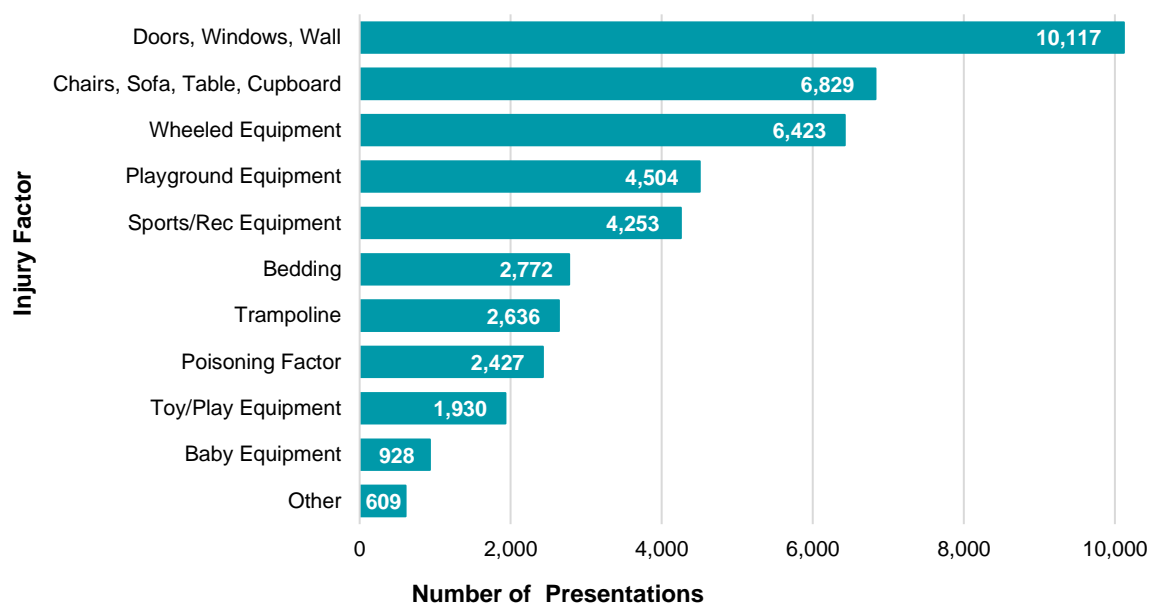
The data used in this report was provided by Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). PMH is the sole tertiary paediatric hospital in Western Australia, acting as a key referral source for childhood injury and disease within the state. The PMH Injury Surveillance System is an electronic database that involves the systematic collection of all emergency department (ED) injury data. Data is collected by triage nurses who initially assess the child presenting to the emergency department. All clinical information and basic demographic details are recorded, together with the child's triage code indicating the level of urgency based on the presentation reason. Additional surveillance data is collected for those children presenting with an injury. This data is then validated by a dedicated Injury Surveillance Officer.

Childhood Injuries in Western Australia

Annually, over 27 Western Australian children die as a result of injury, with a further 7,000 children hospitalised¹. Between January 2012 and December 2016 there were more than 95,800 injury presentations to the PMH ED, for children aged under 16 years. Of these presentations approximately 45 percent (n=43,428) involved an injury factor. An injury factor can be a product or a structure that contributed to the cause of injury.

Similar to previous years the most common injury factors were house structures/building components such as doors, walls, and windows accounting for 23 percent (n=10,117) of the presentations. This was followed by furniture, including items such as chairs, sofas, tables and cupboards (15.7%, n=6,829) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Presentations to PMH ED by Injury Factor, 2012 - 2016



A triage code is assigned to each child presenting to the emergency department, which is based on the level of urgency (see Table 1). Looking specifically at injuries with an associated injury factor, the majority of the presentations were recorded as being urgent or semi-urgent, accounting for approximately 96 percent of the presentations (n=41,668). In the majority of cases (81.9%, n=35,558) children were able to depart the emergency department with treatment completed. A further 16.5 percent (n=7,148) of children were admitted to hospital for further treatment, and the remainder were either transferred to another department/hospital or did not wait for treatment.

Table 1: Triage Category

Category	Seen within (mins)
(1) Resus	0
(2) Emergency	10
(3) Urgent	30
(4) Semi-Urgent	60
(5) Non-Urgent	120

Household Furniture Related Injuries

The home is a common location for childhood injuries, accounting for approximately 40 percent of the injury locations². As young children are curious, they tend to explore their surroundings by touching, moving or climbing household items³. It is important for a child to explore in order to develop motor and cognitive skills; however if the home is not set up safely, or the child is unsupervised, this may result in serious injury. It can be particularly dangerous when children touch, move or climb large furniture items, which can easily tip over and crush the child. Due to the weight of these items, this may result in a serious or fatal injury⁴.

On average there has been one child death per year in Australia due to toppling furniture⁵, with many more children hospitalised. As this type of injury continues to occur, it is important to identify the cause of injury to assist with developing safety guidelines to reduce the risk of future tip-over presentations. To achieve this, furniture tip-over injury presentations to PMH ED have been identified, analysed and summarised in this report.

Presentations to PMH ED

Methods

Using Crystal Reports (v14) a custom search query was set up to identify potential furniture tip-over injuries. The query searched the PMH ED injury surveillance database between January 2012 and December 2016. The following inclusion criteria were used:

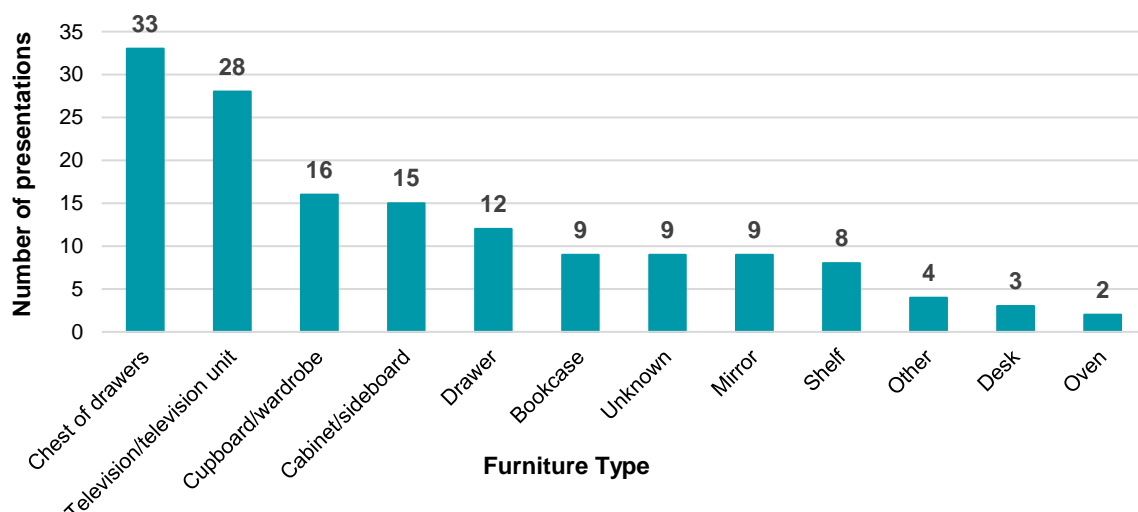
- Injury cause: *Blunt force, non-sport*
- Intent: *Unintentional*
- Location: *Home and Unknown*
- Injury factor: *Other baby/child product, other building component, other furniture/furnishings, cupboard/partition, and toy/play equipment*

Common household items like chairs, tables, and beds were excluded. The injury factor categories include items such as bookshelves/cases, cabinets, chest of drawers, dishwashers, fridges, ovens, mirrors, and television units. An iterative triage text filter was used to identify and exclude recurring words that were not related to toppling furniture e.g. 'FOOSH' - fall on outstretched hand. After identifying the injuries of interest (n=545), each case was manually reviewed to identify true furniture tip-over injuries.

Results

Between January 2012 and December 2016, there were 271 furniture related injury presentations to the PMH ED. Of these, 148 (54.6%) were furniture tip-over injuries. The most common piece of toppling furniture was the chest of drawers, accounting for 22.3 percent (n=33) of the injury presentations. This was followed by televisions/television units, accounting for 18.9 percent (n=28) (see Figure 2). It was unknown if safety equipment such as furniture straps or wall brackets were used in any of the cases.

Figure 2: Furniture Tip-Over Presentations by Furniture Type, 2012 to 2016

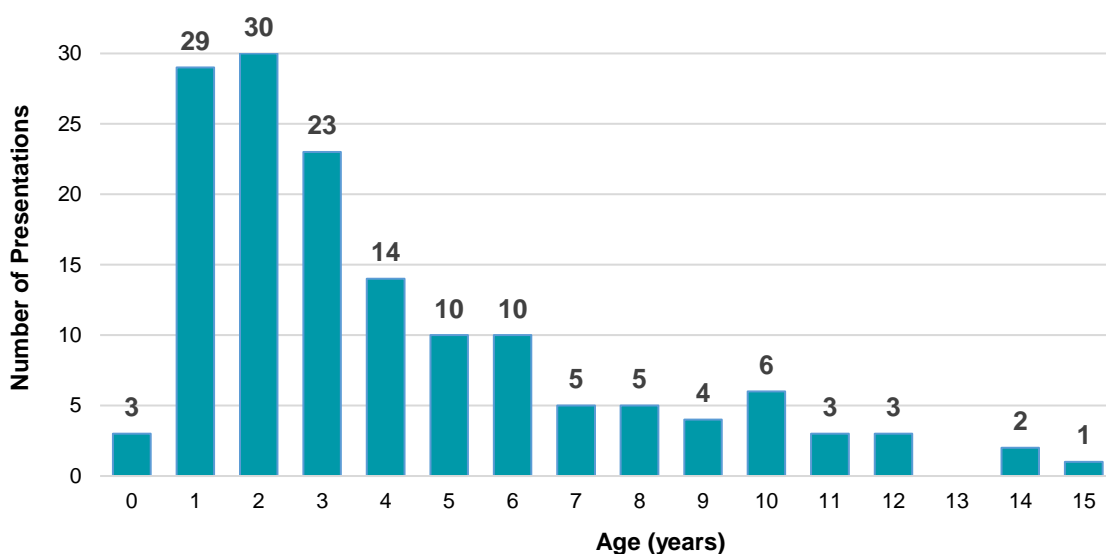


Details about what the child was doing before the incident was limited, almost 80 percent (n=116) of the presentations did not provide any information. Approximately 18 percent (n=26) reported that the child pulled the furniture down onto themselves, and for the remainder (4.1%, n=6) the child was either climbing, cleaning or playing with the furniture item. Of the presentations where the child pulled the item onto themselves, only two of the cases provided further detail. In the first presentation it was reported that the child was standing in the bottom drawer before the incident, and in the second presentation it was reported that all of the drawers were open prior to the unit tipping over.

Adult supervision was unknown in 90.5 percent (n=134) of cases, 8.8 percent (n=13) were unwitnessed, and just one injury was witnessed by a parent.

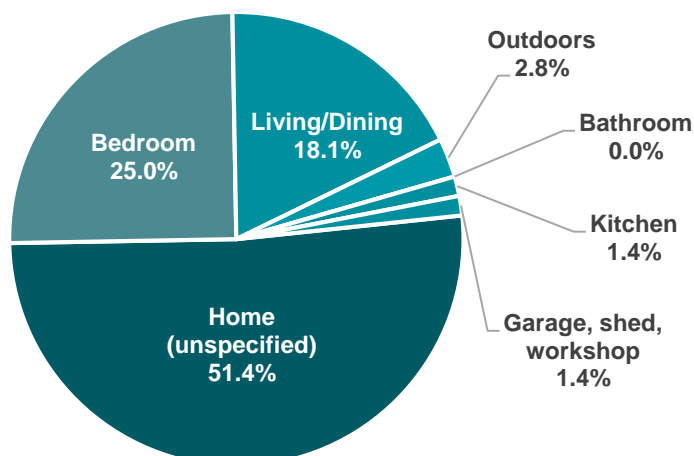
The gender ratio for furniture tip-over injuries were roughly equal, with a slight over-representation of males (54.7%, n=81) compared to females (45.3%, n=67). The majority of the children were younger than 4 years of age (57.4% n=85), peaking in 2 year olds (20.3%, n=30) (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Furniture Tip-Over Presentations by Age, 2012 - 2016



The location of the injuries was reported in 49 percent (n=72) of the cases. Of those, just over half (51.4%, n=37) occurred in an unspecified area of the home, with the next common area being the bedroom, accounting for 25 percent (n=18) of the presentations (see Figure 4).

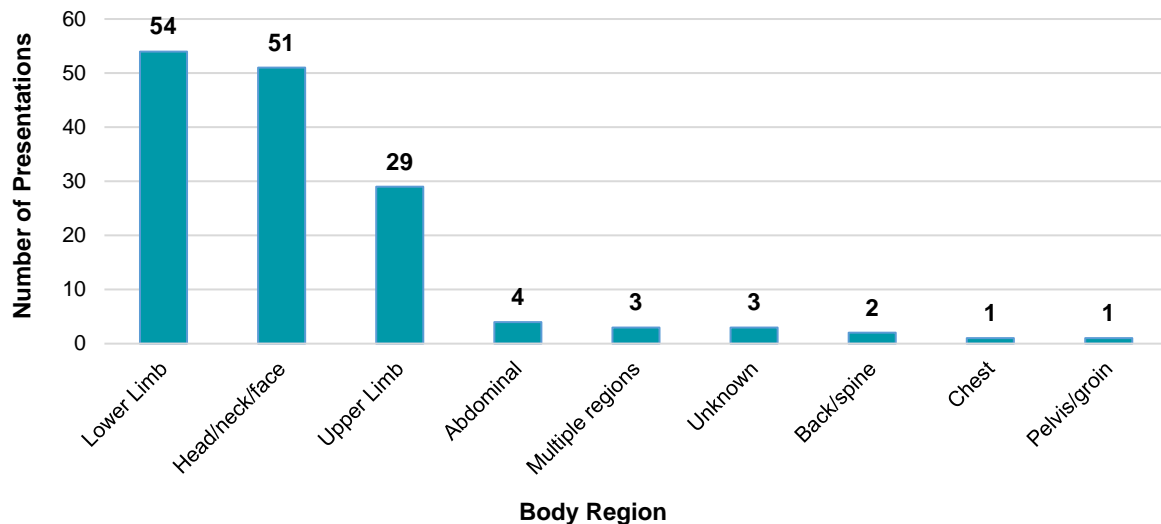
Figure 4: Furniture Tip-Over Presentations by Location 2012 - 2016



The majority of the presentations were triaged as being semi-urgent, accounting for almost 60 percent (n=88) of the presentations. This was followed by urgent presentations (31.8%, n=47), and the remainder (8.8%, n=13) were triaged as either resuscitation or emergency.

The most common injury diagnosis resulting from furniture tip-overs were bruises/contusions, accounting for 23.6 percent (n=35) of the presentations. This was followed by fractures, accounting for approximately 21 percent (n=31) of the presentations. Lower limbs were the most common area of the body injured from furniture tip-overs, accounting for 36.5 percent (n=54) of the presentations. This was followed by head, neck and facial injuries (34.5%, n=51) (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Furniture Tip-Over Injuries by Body Region, 2012 to 2016



For majority of the presentations (75%, n=111) children were able to depart the ED with treatment completed, while a further 24.3 percent (n=36) of children were admitted to hospital for further treatment. This is 1.5 times higher than the baseline admission rate for all injuries (16.5%) with an injury factor within the same time period. There was one death in the ED as a result of a furniture tip-over injury.

Discussion

This report describes furniture tip-over presentations to PMH ED between January 2012 and December 2016. The most common piece of furniture involved in furniture tip-over presentations were chest of drawers (22.3%), and televisions/television units (18.9%). This is similar to other studies where furniture tip-overs largely involved televisions^{3 7}.

Children presenting to PMH ED for a furniture tip-over were predominantly between the ages of one and three years. In most of these cases it was inferred that the child pulled the furniture down onto themselves, however it was not known how that occurred. It was also unknown whether safety equipment like wall brackets and furniture straps were used in any of the cases. This reflects a gap in knowledge about the causal chain of events and safety equipment use for furniture tip-over injuries in Western Australia. A prospective study on furniture tip-over injuries may help to fill that gap. Currently there are no mandatory standards for furniture stability, however there are products on the market which can be used to secure furniture to the wall and prevent furniture tip-overs.

Bruises/contusions were the most common injuries resulting from furniture tip-overs. Although it may be considered as less severe than a fracture and/or threat to breathing, serious internal injuries can result from a blunt force or crush type injury. There was one death in the ED as a result of a furniture tip-over injury. Of the furniture tip-over presentations 24.3 percent were admitted to hospital, which is 1.5 times higher than the baseline injury admission rate (16.5%), reflecting a higher than normal severity of furniture tip-over injuries.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are aimed at reducing the risk of furniture tip-over injuries:

1. Retailers
 - Should provide safety information around securing furniture in the home.
 - Encourage buyers to purchase brackets or furniture straps if not provided with furniture products.
2. Buyers should choose stable furniture
 - Choose furniture with a wide base. Top-heavy furniture is unstable and easily tips over.
 - Choose low set furniture.
 - Check that the unit is stable when drawers/cupboards are open and when applying pressure to the open drawer.
3. Ensure furniture around the home is secure
 - Use furniture straps or brackets to secure items to the wall.
 - Place items such as televisions towards the back of the unit or if possible mount the television on the wall.
 - Ensure there are no hanging cords. A cord may be pulled by the child and topple the furniture.
 - Use locks on cupboards and drawers. An open chest of drawers acts like a pivot lever when a child uses them like a ladder for climbing.
4. Avoid placing attractive items up high
 - Keep items like toys within the child's reach. This will reduce the risk of children climbing furniture.
5. Education
 - Teach children about the dangers of climbing furniture.
 - Ensure children know that they are not allowed to climb furniture and be consistent.
6. Active adult supervision
 - Know where your child is in the home and supervise them closely.

Limitations

There are some limitations with the data used in this report. A considerable portion of paediatric injuries in Western Australia present to the Joondalup Health Campus or Fiona Stanley Hospital, which may have different injury patterns compared to the PMH ED sample used for this report. The accuracy of this report's data is heavily dependent on parental recollection of injury circumstances under stressful circumstances, good triage recording, data validation by the Injury Surveillance Officer, and lastly, a database search query that does not exclude too many 'true positive' cases.

Actions Taken by WA CPAN

Members of the network meet every two months to discuss safety issues and take appropriate actions in a timely manner. Actions taken by WA CPAN are typically led by the member who could have the biggest impact. See Table 3 for a full list of the actions taken by member organisations of WA CPAN between July 2016 and June 2017 to raise awareness around furniture tip-overs.

Table 3: List of actions taken by WA CPAN to raise awareness around furniture tip-overs

Date	Actions
July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 142 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) (see Appendix One)
August 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 100 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) • Media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 'Commissioner's Blog: Toppling furniture can kill kids – anchor it!' (Department of Commerce, Consumer Protection) (see Appendix Two) • Social media (see Appendix Three): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Facebook post – Kidsafe WA x 2, Consumer Protection x 2 ◦ Tweets – Kidsafe WA x 2
September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 51 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA)
October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 58 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA)
November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 39 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) • Online fact sheets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Baby's First year and Toddlers & Pre-schoolers fact sheets were updated; including information about furniture safety (Kidsafe WA) (see Appendix Four) • Social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Facebook post – Kidsafe WA x 1, Consumer Protection x 1 ◦ Tweets – Kidsafe WA x 1
December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 23 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA)
January 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 21 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) • Online fact sheets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Furniture Stability (Department of Commerce, Consumer Protection) (see Appendix Five) • Web pages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Home Safety for Rental Properties (Department of Commerce, Consumer Protection) (see Appendix Six) ◦ Tipping Hazards in the Home (Department of Commerce, Consumer Protection) (see Appendix Seven) ◦ Furniture Stability (Department of Commerce, Consumer Protection) (see Appendix Eight) • Social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Facebook post – Kidsafe WA x 1, Consumer Protection x 2, ACCC x 3 ◦ Tweets – Kidsafe WA x 1, Consumer Protection x 5, ACCC x1 • Office of the State Coroner contacted Kidsafe WA to assist with the recommendations around furniture safety following the inquest into the death of Jasmine Cammilleri (see Appendix Nine)

February 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Keeping Kids Safe workshop with 6 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) • Social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook post – Consumer Protection x 1, ACCC x 1 ○ Tweets – Consumer Protection x 1, ACCC x 1
March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 34 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA)
April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 61 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) • National campaign (Consumer Protection) • The ACCC released the Toppling furniture and televisions: Anchor them and save a child's life website - https://www.productsafety.gov.au/news/toppling-furniture-and-televisions-anchor-them-and-save-a-child-s-life • The ACCC released the Household furniture hazards for kids safety alert (see Appendix Ten) • Social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook post – Kidsafe WA x 3, Consumer Protection x 2, ACCC x 7 ○ Tweets – Kidsafe WA x 3, Consumer Protection x 7, ACCC x 5
May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 49 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) • Social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook post – Kidsafe WA x 1, Consumer Protection x 2 ○ Tweets – Kidsafe WA x 1
June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Keeping Kids Safe workshops with 76 parents, carers and/or professionals which provided injury prevention information for furniture tip-overs (Kidsafe WA) • 'Secure Furniture safely!' postcards by product safety co-regulators displayed in the Kidsafe WA Safety Demonstration House (see Appendix Eleven) • Proactive inspectors and regional officers from Consumer Protection conducted in-store surveillance of more than 60 furniture and television retailers as part of a national project to ascertain the degree to which they make anchoring devices available and customers aware of tipping hazards. • Social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook post – Kidsafe WA x 1 ○ Tweets – Kidsafe WA x 1

Future Directions for WA CPAN

It is important for WA CPAN to continue raising community awareness around the risks associated with unsecured/toppling furniture. Member organisations of WA CPAN are working on a number of actions to achieve this.

Kidsafe WA was approached to assist with producing a national video campaign for toppling furniture in collaboration with the ACCC using a family in Western Australia. Due to difficulties in contacting the family, a family in Victoria will be involved in the campaign instead in which Kidsafe Victoria will assist with the production. This is a national campaign that will highlight the dangers to children of having insecure furniture around the home.

The ACCC have assisted the National Retail Association to develop the *Best Practice Guide for Furniture and Television Tip-Over Prevention* and engaged with retailers to ensure these initiatives are applied. The response has been positive and the majority have outlined their plans of applying the safety initiatives including the supply of anchoring devices with furniture, displaying in-store signage, affixing warning labels, and developing staff training manuals for improving consumer engagement and awareness. Promoting the *Best Practice Guide for Furniture and Television Tip-Over Prevention* and engaging with retailers will be a continued approach used to reduce the risk of furniture tip-overs.

Following an inquest in Western Australia into a toppling furniture death, WA CPAN have also engaged with the Office of the State Coroner. As part of this collaboration WA CPAN will highlight the recommendations of the Coroner's Report throughout our networks. This will also allow further opportunities to collaborate on product related recommendations in the future. WA CPAN will continue promoting the furniture safety messages and recommendations within the WA community through education, data dissemination, and social media content.

In addition, WA CPAN will continue to identify other unsafe products and advocate for change in order to reduce the number and severity of child injuries associated with consumer products. WA CPAN will use its network to:

- Identify emerging child product safety issues through data collection and research
- Continue to monitor existing child product safety issues
- Advocate for appropriate product safety measures in children's products
- Raise public awareness of child product safety concerns
- Collaborate to achieve the best outcome for Western Australian children.

References

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Appendices

Appendix One

Keeping Kids Safe Workshop Slide

Crush Injuries

Make sure furniture is stable and secure

- * Secure all top heavy furniture to the wall
- * Be aware of climbing hazards which can crush fingers and toes
- * Don't place items that will attract children's attention on high shelves



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Discussion points:

- The risks involved with unstable furniture – toppling furniture can lead to serious or fatal injury
- Choose furniture with wide bases
- Rental properties - chat to your landlord about attaching things to walls, and if this is an issue let them know about the risks involved with unstable furniture. Landlords are usually more lenient if you are willing to repair any damage caused by the attachments.

Appendix Two

Commissioner's Blog: Choose furniture wisely to protect children

This announcement is for: [Consumer](#) [Product safety](#)

With Acting Commissioner for Consumer Protection David Hillyard

Many products we buy can be a danger to children. Often Consumer Protection voices concerns about small items such as parts that can choke, button batteries that can cause internal burns or potentially poisonous laundry detergent pods. But large items, such as furniture, also pose a big risk.

Every year in Australia at least one child under nine years old dies from domestic furniture falling on them. Here in WA, last year (October 2015) a 21-month-old boy was killed by a chest of drawers at a home in Yokine. In 2013, a 2-year-old girl was crushed to death by a TV in Perth.

Apart from following some basic tips when buying furniture (we'll get to those shortly), adults can protect children by anchoring items to the wall or floor.

If you are in any doubt about how easily a child's weight can cause unanchored furniture to fall and kill them, we recommend you watch the '*Anchor it and Protect a Child*' safety videos that are available online. There is a powerful one from the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, which has a dedicated website www.anchorit.gov and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has a video at www.productsafety.gov.au/anchorfurniture.

To reduce the chance of injuries and deaths follow these important tips when it comes to buying furniture and putting it in your home ...

- Choose low-set furniture or furniture with sturdy, stable and broad bases.
- Try to buy furniture that comes with safety information and equipment for anchoring it.
- Test the furniture in the shop. For example, pull out top drawers of a chest of drawers and apply a little pressure to see how stable it is and how easily drawers come out.
- Always check with the manufacturer or supplier about the suitability of furniture for your particular circumstances e.g. for a child's bedroom or playroom.
- Furniture which has not passed a stability test or not been tested for stability may have a warning to say so – check for warnings like this.
- If you must buy lightweight furniture, be sure to restrain it from tipping by attaching, mounting or bolting it to the walls and/or floors. Equipment to anchor furniture is not expensive and readily available from hardware stores.
- Put locks on drawers to prevent children opening them and stepping on them.
- Place televisions at the back of cabinets and if possible strap them to the wall.

Small children should be discouraged from climbing on furniture but the fact is they will have a natural tendency to do so and we all know how quick they can be! You can make it less tempting by not putting things out of reach that they want to get hold of, for example a favourite toy on top of a sideboard or wardrobe. Remember furniture can be made top-heavy by its contents, or objects placed on it, so DO NOT put heavy items on top shelves of freestanding bookcases.

When it comes to anchoring furniture we have received reports from tenants that property managers or landlords do not allow them to drill holes in the wall.

Under WA tenancy law, tenants can be prohibited from affixing fixtures, renovating, altering or amending the home OR they can be allowed to, on a case-by-case basis with consent.

Consumer Protection encourages property managers and landlords to give tenants permission to anchor furniture in a bid to protect children. A hole in a wall can be patched or repaired at the end of a rental agreement but a child's life cannot be replaced.

If people renting in WA find requests to anchor furniture are denied, Consumer Protection is happy to speak with the property manager or landlord on behalf of the tenant. Email us at consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or call 1300 30 40 54.

In the case of furnished rental properties, lessors should anchor furniture prior to tenants moving in.

Consumer Protection | Department News | 05 Aug 2016


Appendix Three

Social Media Content

Kidsafe WA
January 9 · 🌐

Toppling furniture can be a big risk to children. Here are some simple tips to help reduce the risk:

- Secure any top heavy furniture to the walls
- Never place items up high that will attract children to climb
- Ensure all furniture is stable and secure... [See More](#)



Fact Sheets - at home | Kidsafe WA

In addition to the below mentioned fact sheets there are a number of other resources which are free or able to be purchased at a nominal fee (excluding postage and handling) through our online shop. To see a full list of our child...

KIDSAFEWA.COM.AU


122 people reached [Boost Post](#)

👍 NSW Fair Trading and Natahnee Veitch 1 Share

👍 Like 🗨 Comment ➦ Share

Consumer Protection WA shared U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's video.
May 2 at 8:15am · 🌐

We are currently running a community education campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of toppling furniture. This video out of America is about the tragic death of a child who was crushed by a TV and unit.



4,078 Views

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
April 5 · 🌐 [Like Page](#)

"The doctor told us that the TV falling on her was like [Chance] falling from a 10-story building... Don't take a chance on this ever happening to you. No parent ...

[See More](#)

👍 Like 🗨 Comment ➦ Share

👍 🤔 3 Chronological

ACC Product Safety
April 23 at 10:00am · 🌐

Televisions are the main appliance involved in toppling incidents. Secure TV's safely to the wall or cabinet and prevent a serious accident from happening in your home. productsafety.gov.au/topplingfurniture



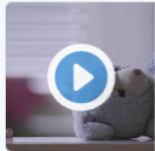
👍 Like 🗨 Comment ➦ Share

👍 🤔 Kara Thompson and 63 others Chronological

81 shares

Kidsafe WA @KidsafeWA · Apr 3

Toppling furniture safety - anchor it and protect a child



Toppling furniture safety - anchor it and protect a c...

At least 14 children under 9 years old died in Australia during 2000-2015 after domestic furniture fell on them. This is around one death per year. Retailers...

youtube.com

🔁 🗨 🍷

ACC Product Safety @ACCCProdSafety · Apr 10


If furniture is unstable, a child's weight can cause it or items placed on top, like TVs, to topple over. productsafety.gov.au/topplingfurnit...




Accidents can happen in the blink of an eye

Secure furniture safely!

Appendix Four



Fact Sheet



Baby's First Year

Birth to 12 months

Babies learn and develop new skills quickly - keeping you on your toes!


During the first year of life, most babies learn to:

- Wriggle and roll over
- Kick and push
- Put things in their mouths
- Pull themselves up
- Crawl and walk

Exposing them to dangers from:

- Falling from furniture
- Pulling things down on themselves
- Burns and scalds
- Drowning
- Injuries from riding in the car
- Choking on small objects


Knowing your baby's stage of development will help you keep your baby safe.




Safety Check

- ✓ Install smoke alarms, test them regularly and change the batteries on the 1st April.
- ✓ Use baby equipment that meets Australian Standards. This includes cots, prams/joggers, toys, car seats and high chairs. Check that second hand products are in good condition and suitable for use.
- ✓ Do not hold your baby while you are eating or drinking anything hot.
- ✓ Always use a correctly fitted and adjusted child car restraint suitable for your child's age and size
- ✓ Install safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs
- ✓ Grate, mash, blend or chop food into tiny pieces to avoid choking. Do not give your baby nuts, popcorn or lollies.
- ✓ Keep medicines, cleaning products and other poisons locked up high and away.
- ✓ Secure any top heavy furniture such as televisions, bookshelves or chest of draws to the walls to avoid these toppling onto children.

www.kidsafewa.com.au



Fact Sheet



Toddlers and Preschoolers

1 to 5 years

Toddlers and preschoolers are curious and full of energy. At this age they are also learning to do new things such as walk, run, climb and open things such as doors, cupboards and drawers. This means they can get to places that were previously out of reach.

Toddlers and preschoolers can be at risk of:

- Falls
- Poisoning
- Choking on small objects
- Burns and Scalds
- Drowning
- Road injuries from riding in the car or being a pedestrian

Safety Check

- ✓ Install safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs.
- ✓ Keep medicines, cleaning products and other poisons locked high and away.
- ✓ Install smoke alarms, test them regularly and change the batteries on the 1st April.
- ✓ Check that the delivery temperature of the hot water in your home is set to 50 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ Use a child car restraint that is suitable for your child age and size.
- ✓ Keep hot food and drink out of reach. Use lids on hot drinks and try to keep children out of the kitchen when cooking.
- ✓ Secure top heavy furniture such as televisions, bookshelves and chest of draws to the walls to avoid these toppling onto children.


Minimizing the risk

Poisoning

- Store all medicines, cleaning products and other chemicals in their original containers.
- Make sure all poisons are stored up high in a lockable cupboard, preferably 1.5 m high.
- Return all poisons immediately to their safe storage area after use.
- Do not store potential poisons near foods. If medications need to be refrigerated, store them in a lockable container out of children's reach.
- Never refer to medicines or vitamins as "lollies", and always read the label before giving medicine.
- Make sure handbags are out of reach of children as they may contain products such as medication.
- Always keep the Poisons Information Centre phone number (13 11 26) near your phone.

Drowning

- Always supervise a child in the bathroom. DO NOT let older children supervise your toddler. They may not know how to keep your toddler safe.
- Close doors to bathrooms and make sure to empty the bath and other items such as paddling pools and buckets immediately after use.
- Make sure you cover ponds and water features with a strong mesh that holds your child's weight.
- Set rules for your family when near water.
- For home swimming pools and spas, the best option is to install isolation barriers with a well maintained self-closing and self-latching gate.
- Learn CPR and update your training regularly.



Burns and Scalds

- Install guards around fires, heaters and on top of stoves. Teach children why these are in place.
- Keep children out of the kitchen while preparing meals. When cooking, use rear hot plates first and turn pot handles to the back of the stove or bench.
- Put your child down before consuming hot drinks, and before using hot pots, pans and kettles. Use a commuter mug with a lid for hot drinks.
- Keep appliance cords out of reach of children and hot items at the back of the bench.
- Choose low fire-risk children's nightwear that is close fitting and made of less flammable material. Look for the fire risk label.
- Use a hot water tempering device to control the temperature of your tap water to a maximum of 50°C. A licensed plumber can install this for you.
- Always test the bath water temperature before bathing your child. The maximum recommended temperature for bathing your child is 38°C.
- Always run the cold water first and last when filling up a bath and never leave a hot running bath unattended.

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protecting children from injury

Appendix Five



Government of Western Australia
Department of Commerce
Consumer Protection

Furniture stability

From a child's point of view, your home looks like a big playground. But there are hidden dangers they don't recognise.

Unstable furniture can tip over when a child climbs or pulls on it. This can cause serious injuries if it lands on top of them. It can even be fatal. At least 14 children under nine years old died in Australia between 2000 and 2015 after domestic furniture fell on them. This is around one death per year.

Of these injuries half were to children four years old and under and 80 per cent of incidents occurred in the home. The three most common furniture items were chairs, chests of drawers/tallboys and tables/benches/desks and the most common electrical appliance by far was the television.

Think safety first with these helpful tips.

- **Look for stable-based furniture** - Choose furniture with a broad, solid base and wide legs to keep them well balanced. They are less likely to tip if a small child climbs onto them.
- **Test before you buy** - Test the furniture while you're in the shop. Apply a little pressure to make sure it's stable. Check any type of furniture that has drawers as young children may try to climb up them like a flight of stairs. Pull out the top drawer and press down on the inside to check how stable it is. Make sure the drawers don't fall out easily.
- **Secure any unstable furniture and especially large television sets** - If you have any doubts about whether your furniture is stable, secure it using furniture straps, angle braces or anchors screwed into wall studs.
- **Choose safe tables** - Choose tables that won't tip over if a child climbs on them. Glass tables should be made of toughened glass.
- **Use child-resistant locks on all drawers** - Locks are a good way of preventing children from opening drawers and using them as steps. Use locks for cupboards that store chemicals, cleaning fluids and other poisons.
- **Don't tempt your child** - Never place items like feeding bottles, toys or remote controls on top of furniture. This will encourage your child to climb up and reach for them.

Consumer Protection encourages property managers and landlords to give tenants permission to anchor furniture in a bid to protect children. A hole in a wall can be patched or repaired at the end of a rental agreement but a child's life cannot be replaced. In the case of furnished rental properties, landlords should anchor furniture prior to tenants moving in.

If people renting in WA find requests to anchor furniture are denied, Consumer Protection will speak with the property manager or landlord on behalf of the tenant. Email us at consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or call 1300 30 40 54.

Department of Commerce
Consumer Protection Division

Consumer Protection
Gordon Stephenson House, Level 2/140 William Street
Perth Western Australia 6000 (hours 8.30 am - 5.00 pm)
Administration: (08) 9282 0777 Facsimile: (08) 9282 0850
Advice Line on 1300 304 054
Website: www.commerce.wa.gov.au
Email: consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au

Appendix Six

Home safety for rental properties

This page is for: [Landlord / lessor](#) [Product safety](#) [Property industry](#) [Tenant](#)

Safety in and around a rental property is the responsibility of both the landlord and tenant.

Landlord's responsibility

Landlords must ensure the rental premises are safe to live in. Under common law, a landlord has a duty of care to tenants as well as anyone the tenant invites into the property.

The landlord may be sued for negligence if an injury or death occurs as a result of the landlord's failure to ensure the rental premises is safe. The landlord therefore has an obligation:

- to comply with all requirements applying to the premises in respect of building health and safety laws; and
- to arrange for urgent repairs necessary to avoid exposing a person to the risk of injury.

Landlords must also provide either a [Form 1AC "Information for Tenants"](#) or [Form 1AD "Information for Tenant with Non-written Tenancy Agreement"](#) at the start of a tenancy. These forms alert the tenants of the safety concerns associated with

- pool barriers; and
- blind and curtain cords.

It is recommended that pool barrier and blind/curtain cord checks are included as part of the quarterly property inspections.

In the case of blind and curtain cords, and pool fences the rules apply whether the tenants have children living in the premises or not. The safety protections / risk apply to visitors as well as tenants.

Tenant's responsibility

A tenant also has some responsibility. They must ensure the rental property remains a safe environment by:

- not creating hazards by their actions; and
- by alerting the landlord or property manager (in writing) to any safety issues around the home as soon as possible.

Anchoring of furniture

At least one child under 9 dies a year in Australia from domestic furniture falling on them. Consumer Protection have received reports from tenants that when it comes to anchoring furniture, property managers or landlords do not allow them to drill holes in the wall.

If any furniture can topple onto a child tenants should request permission to anchor furniture safely from the landlord or property manager immediately.

Not all lease agreements have provision for the granting of permission to the tenant for the affixing of fixtures. Tenants should consider this when signing the lease agreement.

Under WA tenancy law, tenants can be prohibited from affixing fixtures, renovating, altering or amending the home OR they can be allowed to, on a case-by-case basis with consent.

Consumer Protection encourages landlords and property managers to give tenants the permission to anchor furniture in a bid to protect children. A hole in a wall can be patched or repaired at the end of a rental agreement, but a child's life cannot be replaced.

If the rental property is furnished the landlord should secure any furniture that may pose a hazard.

For more information visit Product Safety Australia's website on [Toppling Furniture: Anchor it and protect a child](#)

Appendix Seven

Tipping hazards in the home

This page is for: [Consumer](#) [Product safety](#)

Furniture Stability

From a toddler's point of view, home looks like a big playground. They don't recognise the dangers.

The trouble is that most parents don't recognise the dangers either.

Unstable furniture can tip over when a child climbs or pulls on it. This can cause serious injuries if it lands on top of them. It can be fatal. At least 14 children under nine years old died in Australia between 2000 and 2015 after domestic furniture fell on them. This is around one death per year. (Source: National Coronial Information System)

Of these injuries:

- half were to children four years old and under.
- 80 per cent of incidents occurred in the home.

Of these cases:

- the three most common furniture items were chairs, chests of drawers/tallboys and tables/benches/desks.
- the most common electrical appliance by far was television sets.
- the three most commonly identified places the injuries happened were living/dining areas, bedrooms and family/rumpus rooms.

10 Tips to keep your baby safe

This short film highlights the risks of furniture stability and tip-over injuries and gives you tips to make your home safer.

**Anchor it and protect a child**

This short film highlights the dangers of toppling furniture and provides information on how to correctly anchor furniture or heavy items.

Anchor it and protect a child

This short film highlights the dangers of toppling furniture and provides information on how to correctly anchor furniture or heavy items.



7 easy steps

Step 1—Look for stable-based furniture

Choose furniture with broad, stable bases instead of legs. They are less likely to tip if a small child climbs onto them.

Be particularly careful about:

- freestanding bookcases.
- television stands.
- chests of drawers.

Step 2—Test before you buy

Step 3—Secure any unstable furniture

Step 4—Choose safer tables

Step 5—Use child-resistant locks

Step 6—Reinforce behaviour

Step 7—Don't tempt your child

Factsheet

This information is summarized in the [Furniture stability factsheet](#).

Report

If you think an item of nursery furniture or other household product is unsafe, you can [report it](#).

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Appendix Eight

Furniture Stability

This page is for: [Business / company](#) [Product safety](#)

Due to the rising number of incidents, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and consumer protection agencies around Australia encourage all traders to consider their products and the risk to consumers of toppling furniture.

Toppling furniture—understanding the risks

Many may be aware of recent tragic deaths of young children caused by toppling furniture in Australia and overseas. Small children have a natural tendency to climb on furniture such as freestanding bookcases, drawers, wardrobes and sideboards. A child's weight can easily cause unsecured furniture to topple, particularly if it has been made top-heavy by its contents or has heavy objects placed on it.

At least 14 children under 9 years old have died in Australia during 2010-2015 due to toppling furniture. Many more have been admitted to emergency rooms with injuries. These injuries and deaths are largely preventable and your assistance is critical in reducing the likelihood of further incidents occurring.

Retailers have a responsibility to help keep customers safe

Major retailers of furniture in Australia and overseas have already adopted simple and affordable solutions to prevent toppling furniture incidents. This includes providing customers with furniture anchors and advising them about making safe choices when buying potentially unsafe furniture.

The ACCC and its associated state and territory consumer safety regulators remind all traders to provide customers with the means to reduce the risk of serious injuries caused by toppling furniture. Adopting safety initiatives voluntarily may also reduce the need for further consideration of government regulation in this area.

Businesses can help to prevent toppling furniture related injuries and reduce the likelihood of causing reputational damage by taking these steps:

- Provide furniture anchors to give consumers the opportunity to prevent furniture tip-over incidents from occurring
- Display and provide consumer safety information at the point of sale – you can print and use our [Furniture Stability Factsheet](#) about how to prevent injuries.
- Provide safety information on the company website – use the link to the online safety alert: [Toppling furniture: Anchor it and protect a child](#).
- Print clear warnings in furniture assembly instructions and use in-store signage on or near relevant displays. Consider including information in your promotional material to help parents and carers identify and avoid toppling furniture risks.
- Train staff about furniture safety so they can assist customers with making safe choices.
- Watch our [safety video](#) about toppling furniture risks and use it in your staff training programs.

Toppling furniture safety - anchor it and protect a child



To discuss safety initiatives or trader responsibilities under the Australian Consumer Law, please call Consumer Protection 130030 40 45.

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Last modified: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 - 11:26

Appendix Nine

Coroners Act, 1996
[Section 26(1)]



Western

Australia

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH

Ref No: 11/16

*I, Rosalinda Vincenza Clorinda Fogliani, State Coroner, having investigated the death of **Jasmine Lilian CAMMILLERI**, with an Inquest held at Perth Coroner's Court on 5 April 2016 find that the identity of the deceased person was **Jasmine Lilian CAMMILLERI** and that death occurred on 11 February 2013 at Fremantle Hospital Emergency Department, Alma Street Fremantle as a result of chest injury in the following circumstances -*

Counsel Appearing :

Ms Kate Ellson assisted the State Coroner

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Appendix Ten

SAFETY WARNING

Televisions

Placing a large television on a small stand or unstable surface is very dangerous for small children. Televisions with large screens and smaller backs can easily overbalance and tip forward.

SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Match the stand or cabinet to the size of the television. A television stand should have a wide, deep and sturdy base suitable for the size and weight of the television.
- ✓ If you are not using a television stand, place the television as far back as possible on a low stable surface.
- ✓ Keep television cords behind the furniture where children cannot reach them.
- ✓ Ensure wall brackets and straps are used to anchor the television to a wall, especially when the size or position of the television presents a hazard.

CAUTION

- ✗ Do not use television cabinets with drawers immediately under the television. The likelihood of furniture overturning increases when a loaded drawer is opened.
- ✗ Do not place the remote control and other items attractive to children on top of the television where they may try to reach them.
- ✗ Never place the television on unsuitable furniture like a chest of drawers, speakers or a trolley.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Publications can be ordered through the ACCC Infocentre or downloaded from the ACCC website.

Safety alert brochures:

Babies dummies
Baby bath aids
Baby walkers
Blind and curtain cords
Bunk beds
Cots
Toys

Safety guides:

Keeping baby safe
Safe toys for kids

ACCC contacts

ACCC Infocentre 1300 302 502

ACCC Indigenous Infoline 1300 303 143

For information in languages other than English, call 131 450 and ask for 1300 302 502.

Callers who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact the ACCC through the National Relay Service www.relayservice.com.au

Voice-only (speak and listen) users—phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 1300 302 502

www.accc.gov.au

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
23 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2601

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Important notice

The information in this brochure is general in nature and may not be relevant to your specific circumstances. While the ACCC has made every reasonable effort to provide current and accurate information, readers should be aware that the ACCC accepts no liability for any loss or damage whatsoever attributable to reliance upon any of that information. Nothing in this brochure should replace professional advice. The ACCC recommends that users exercise their own skill and care when using the information in this brochure.

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Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

SAFETY ALERT

Household furniture hazards for kids

Make your home a safe place for children



SAFETY HAZARD

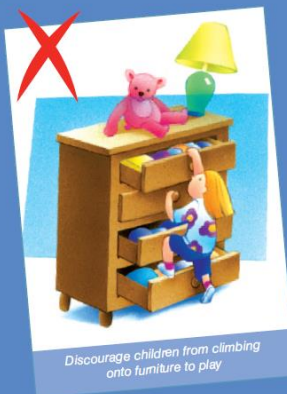
Household furniture

Young children love to climb and will often play on household furniture. However, climbing on furniture can place children at significant risk.

Children climbing on furniture could cause it to topple over, resulting in serious injury. Each year, several hundred children are injured as a result of falling furniture, some fatally. Children under five are especially at risk.

Most accidents can be prevented by making small changes to your home environment, such as selecting safer furniture and securing unstable furniture to the wall.

Protect your children—follow the safety guidelines in this brochure.



Discourage children from climbing onto furniture to play



Make your home a safe place for children

SAFETY CHECKLIST

WHEN BUYING FURNITURE

- ✓ Look for storage furniture (such as bookcases, cabinets and chests of drawers) with a broad and stable base rather than legs.
- ✓ Test the furniture in the shop—make sure it is stable (e.g. pull out the top drawers of a chest of drawers and apply a little pressure to see how stable it is; make sure that the drawers do not fall out easily).
- ✓ Choose tables that will not tip if you sit on them or a child climbs on them (glass tables should be made of thick, toughened glass).

ANCHORS

Use angle braces or anchors to secure book shelves into a solid surface such as a brick wall or use a wall stud.

As a guide, any furniture unit one metre or higher should be secured.



SAFETY AT HOME

- ✓ Always discourage children from climbing on furniture.
- ✓ Move unstable furniture from where children play. Remember that to a child, a chest of drawers or shelves may be used as a ladder.
- ✓ Secure all tall furniture to a wall using angle braces or anchors (available from hardware stores).
- ✓ Put locking devices on all drawers to prevent children opening them and using them as steps.

CAUTION

- ✗ Do not place heavy items such as large books or speakers on the upper shelves of bookcases and storage units. Keep heavier items on the lower shelves.
- ✗ Never place tempting items such as favourite toys on top of furniture that encourages children to climb up and reach.



ANGLE
BRACES

Appendix Eleven

Tragically, up to two children die every year from furniture or TVs toppling over.

Don't wait until it's too late



Secure furniture safely!



Toppling furniture and TVs cause tragic deaths and hundreds of serious injuries each year.

Don't wait until it's too late. Take steps to prevent furniture from toppling over by installing an anchor device.

Toppling televisions seriously injure small children. Secure your TV to the wall or cabinet with a suitable anchor so it cannot topple over and crush a child.

Anchors are easy to install. If they are supplied with furniture, you should use them. They can also be purchased from your local hardware store or furniture supplier.

Watch our safety video at **productsafety.gov.au/topplingfurniture** to find out how you can keep your children safe.



www.kidsafewa.com.au