

SAFETY ALERT



Preventing TV and Furniture Tip-Over Deaths

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that in 2005 at least 3,000 children younger than 5 were treated in U.S. hospitals emergency rooms because of injuries associated with TV tip-overs. In addition, from 2000 through 2005, CPSC received reports of 36 TV tip-over and 65 furniture tip-over deaths. More than 80 percent of all these deaths involved young children.

The injuries and deaths frequently take place when kids climb onto, fall against, or pull themselves up on shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, chests, and television stands. In some cases, televisions placed on top of furniture tip over and cause a child to suffer a traumatic and sometimes fatal injury.

CPSC offers the following safety tips to prevent furniture or TV tip-overs:

- ▲ Verify that furniture is stable on its own. For added security, attach to the wall or anchor to the floor all entertainment units, TV stands, bookcases, shelving, and bureaus using appropriate hardware, such as brackets, screws, or toggles.
- ▲ Place the TV on sturdy furniture appropriate for the size of the TV or on a low-rise base.
- ▲ Push the TV as far back as possible.
- ▲ Place electrical cords out of a child's reach, and teach kids not to play with them.
- ▲ Remove items that might tempt kids to climb, such as toys and remote control, from top of the TV and furniture.

There are voluntary safety standards in place for TV stands/carts, chests, bureaus, and dressers, which require that furniture passes a stability test. If a piece of furniture violates this standard, the products can be recalled.

