



2017 OECD Furniture Tip-overs Campaign

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<http://oe.cd/tipovers>

Key Safety Messages for Parents, Caregivers, and Consumers

THE DANGERS

It is natural for children to want to reach, climb, and pull themselves up onto furniture and explore. Furniture, appliances, and televisions can easily tip over in an instant, causing serious injuries to children and even death.

THE PROBLEM

Certain types of furniture, such as tall bookcases and tallboys, can be particularly unstable especially if they are heavily loaded with typical household items like books, televisions or other appliances. Cupboards, free-standing mirrors, and chests of drawers can also become unstable if climbed on or tipped over. Every year, children also pull large televisions onto themselves and are crushed.

THE SOLUTIONS

ANCHORING DEVICES

- Furniture and televisions that are prone to tip should be attached to the wall or other sturdy structure using angle braces, anchors or safety straps particularly in households where young children may be present.
- If anchors are provided by a supplier to stabilize an article of furniture, follow the installation instructions carefully.
- If you have an older piece of furniture, visit your local hardware store to purchase restraints or anchors. If possible, secure them to a wall stud with strong screws. Consult your hardware store specialist about appropriate hardware to attach your furniture anchoring devices.
- Anchor bolts with spring toggles or other similar features can be used to secure furniture to plasterboard or drywall. Wedge anchors or plastic wall plugs can be used in masonry (concrete) walls or brickwork.

CONSUMER CHOICES

- Select furniture and televisions that are designed to resist tipping and look for information that indicates that the furniture complies with relevant safety standards for stability.
- Choose storage furniture (bookcases, cabinets, Television (TV) stands and dressers) with wide and/or deep and stable bases that sit directly on the floor and/or have a low centre of gravity.
- Check the warning labels on your furniture, TVs and appliances and look-out for in-store signage or information bulletins about how to prevent tip-overs. Find out about safety features by visiting the manufacturer's website or talking to your retailer.

SAFETY IN THE HOME

- Install child-resistant locking devices on drawers to prevent children from opening them and using them to climb up.
- Do not put heavy items and items that are attractive to children, such as toys or candy, on top of TVs.
- Put TVs on low, stable furniture that is made for their weight and size. Attach your TV to the stand if possible. Place heavier items—like books—in lower drawers or shelves to reduce the risk of tip-overs.
- Parents and caregivers should supervise children and teach them not to climb or hang from furniture or appliances.
- Open only one drawer at a time. Close all drawers that you are not using.
- If you're renting a home, talk to your landlord or agent to get permission to install anchor devices to the wall. Explain why you want to secure your furniture and assure them that you will repair damage caused by the installation when the tenancy ends. Make sure you get the landlord or agent's approval in writing.