

Have you ever considered that household furniture such as a TV, chest of drawers, or even a chair could be a dangerous piece of furniture to your children

Simple things such as choosing tables with rounded edges, moving unstable furniture away from where children play, and securing tall furniture to a wall can make your home safer

For product safety advice contact:

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furniture

SAFETY FOR KIDS

in the home



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Consumer and
Employment Protection



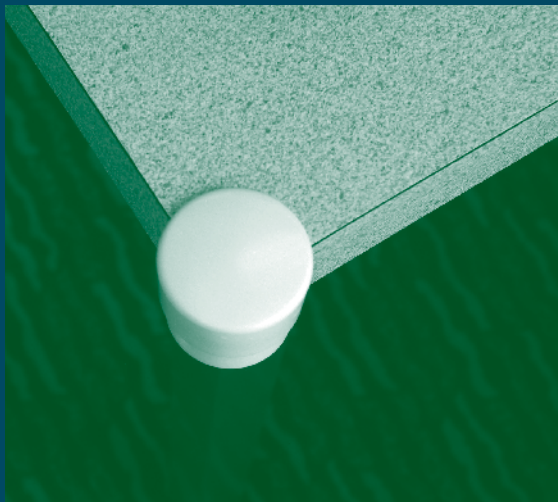


Children don't always use furniture in the way that it is intended. Take a bookcase for example. To adults it is for storage, but for children it could be used as a ladder to reach something above. All it takes is the weight of a small child climbing on the furniture and it could easily topple over.

Furniture falling onto children can cause serious injuries like fractures, head injuries, and in the worst case, death.

Falls or collisions involving tables, chairs and stools can cause eye injuries, fractures, cuts and sprains.

Most injuries can be avoided by choosing safer furniture, securing unstable furniture, and by simple changes to the environment.



Corner protectors are available from baby and child product retailers.

To make your home safer for children, here are some steps you can take:

When buying furniture

- Look for storage furniture (such as bookcases, chests of drawers) with a broad and stable base instead of legs, and check to make sure that the drawers do not fall out easily.
- Test the furniture in the shop. If buying a chest of drawers for example, pull out the top drawers and apply a little pressure to see how sturdy they are. Children often climb up the open drawers of furniture.
- Select tables that will not tip if you sit on them.
- Glass tables should be made with thick, toughened glass and should be treated with care.
- Choose stable chairs, which have non-slip leg ends rather than those with wheels or castors.
- Before buying a chair sit on it and lean backward and forward to check that it is stable ie does not slip out from under you when you lean forward or back. Beware of light plastic chairs – they are often as fragile as they look.

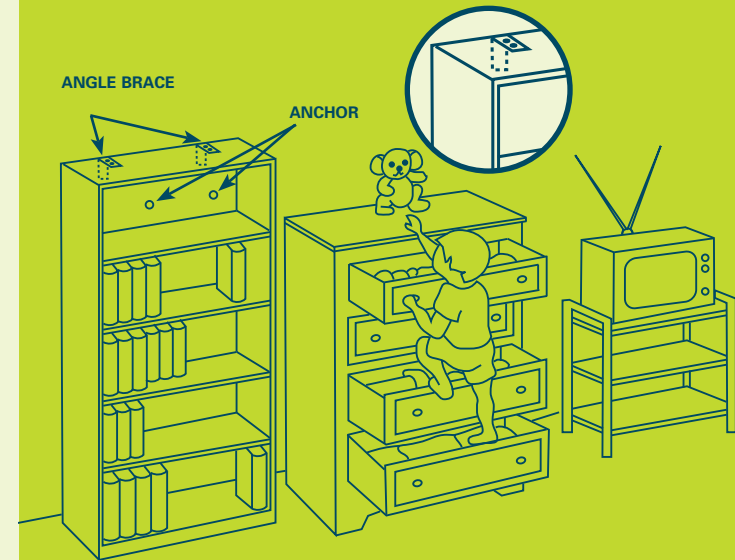
Securing furniture in your home

- Secure all tall furniture to a stable wall using angle braces available from hardware stores. As a guide, any furniture unit one metre or higher should be secured.
- Install corner protectors on sharp edges of tables, benches and counters. Position furniture where it will cause the least obstruction.

Furniture can tip over on children

⚠ WARNING

Use angle braces or anchors to secure furniture to wall.



- Televisions on furniture can also tip over onto children. Make sure that the stand you buy is stable and strong enough to take your TV. Place TVs on low furniture, as far back as possible. Ensure wall brackets and straps are used when supplied, or when the size or position of the TV presents a hazard.
- Discourage children from climbing onto furniture to play. Items attractive to children shouldn't be placed on climbable furniture.
- Avoid placing children on tables. Never put a child in a bouncer on a table.