



CPSC Safety Alert

Anchor It and Protect a Child

On average, one child dies every 2 weeks when a TV, piece of furniture, or an appliance falls on him, according to reports received by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) between 2000 to 2010. In addition, CPSC staff estimates that more than 22,000 children 8 years old and younger were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries resulting from tip-over incident between 2008 to 2010.

The most common tip-over scenarios involve toddlers who have climbed onto, fallen against or pulled themselves up on furniture. About 70 percent of children's fatalities (169 incidents) involved falling TVs, and 27 percent (65 incidents) involved only furniture falling. The majority of fatalities where furniture fell by itself or fell along with a TV involved a chest, dresser, or a bureau. Often, these pieces of furniture have drawers that children can use to climb.



To prevent tragedies, follow these safety tips in any home where children live or visit:

- Anchor furniture to the wall or the floor.
- Place TVs on sturdy, low bases.
- Or, anchor the furniture and the TV on top of it, and push the TV as far back on top of the furniture as possible.
- Keep remote controls, toys, and other items that might be attractive to children off TV stands or furniture.
- Keep TV and/or cable cords out of reach of children.
- Make sure freestanding kitchen ranges and stoves are installed with anti-tip brackets.
- Supervise children in rooms where these safety tips have not been followed.

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