



Furniture Tip-over Prevention Checklist

Important Steps Every Family Can Take to Reduce Furniture Tip-Over Risks

Since 2013, 58 children have died from furniture tip-over accidents, and another 50 were killed when a TV plus the furniture it was sitting on fell. Most often, the furniture involved is a chest, cabinet or dresser with drawers the child tried to climb, but nightstands and bookshelves have also toppled with tragic consequences.

In September 2023, a new federal safety standard was applied to all new clothing storage furniture over 27 inches tall. This new furniture is less likely to tip under the weight of a toddler but should still be anchored to the wall as a precaution. Here are more furniture tip-over prevention tips:

- ✓ **Watch where you place the weight.** Always store heavier items in lower drawers of dressers, chests and cabinets. Remember that top heavy pieces are a greater tip-over hazard.
- ✓ **Look high *and* low.** Many parents and caregivers assume only taller furniture is a tip hazard, but chests and nightstands as short as 27 or 28 inches have fallen over and caused a fatality. Also, both lightweight *and* heavy wood furniture can tip over, especially under the weight of a child climbing or playing. That's why you should anchor furniture even if you think it won't tip, and even if you think your child won't climb. The [AnchorIt.gov](https://www.anchorit.gov) website is the best source of complete anchoring information, including how-to videos and step-by-step instructions.
- ✓ **Use approved anchors.** There is a safety standard for furniture anchors called **ASTM F3096-23**. Make sure any anchor you use is marked as compliant with this specific standard.
- ✓ **Remove temptations.** Keep remote controls, candy, toys and any other tempting items off the tops of TVs and furniture where your youngster can see but not reach them.
- ✓ **Be wary of second-hand.** The first years of a child's life are *expensive!* By the time parents purchase a crib, stroller, car seat, highchair, diapers and clothes – not to mention health care and child care – new furniture for storing clothes may simply not be in the budget. But, before you know it, the infant is a toddler, and an unstable, second-hand chest or dresser can become a serious hazard. Inspect second-hand pieces for broken or loose legs, broken or sagging drawers and loose hardware. If it can't be repaired, choose another option, like baskets or bins.

Looking for a childproofing expert? Go to [childproofingexperts.com](https://www.childproofingexperts.com). For complete furniture anchoring instructions, go to [AnchorIt.gov](https://www.anchorit.gov).