

# SAFETY WARNING

## Televisions

Placing a large television on a small stand or unstable surface is very dangerous for small children. Televisions with large screens and smaller backs can easily overbalance and tip forward.

### SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Match the stand or cabinet to the size of the television. A television stand should have a wide, deep and sturdy base suitable for the size and weight of the television.
- ✓ If you are not using a television stand, place the television as far back as possible on a low stable surface.
- ✓ Keep television cords behind the furniture where children cannot reach them.
- ✓ Ensure wall brackets and straps are used to anchor the television to a wall, especially when the size or position of the television presents a hazard.

### CAUTION

- ✗ Do not use television cabinets with drawers immediately under the television. The likelihood of furniture overturning increases when a loaded drawer is opened.
- ✗ Do not place the remote control and other items attractive to children on top of the television where they may try to reach them.
- ✗ Never place the television on unsuitable furniture like a chest of drawers, speakers or a trolley.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Publications can be ordered through the ACCC Infocentre or downloaded from the ACCC website.

#### Safety alert brochures:

*Babies dummies*  
*Baby bath aids*  
*Baby walkers*  
*Blind and curtain cords*  
*Bunk beds*  
*Cots*  
*Toys*

#### Safety guides:

*Keeping baby safe*  
*Safe toys for kids*

#### ACCC contacts

ACCC Infocentre 1300 302 502

ACCC Indigenous Infoline 1300 303 143

For information in languages other than English, call 131 450 and ask for 1300 302 502.

Callers who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact the ACCC through the National Relay Service [www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au)

Voice-only (speak and listen) users—  
phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 1300 302 502

[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
23 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2601

© Commonwealth of Australia 2006  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

#### Important notice

The information in this brochure is general in nature and may not be relevant to your specific circumstances. While the ACCC has made every reasonable effort to provide current and accurate information, readers should be aware that the ACCC accepts no liability for any loss or damage whatsoever attributable to reliance upon any of that information. Nothing in this brochure should replace professional advice. The ACCC recommends that users exercise their own skill and care when using the information in this brochure.

ISBN 978 1 921393 42 6  
ACCC 05/09\_25743



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

SAFETY ALERT

# Household furniture hazards for kids

*Make your home a safe place  
for children*



# SAFETY HAZARD

## Household furniture

Young children love to climb and will often play on household furniture. However, climbing on furniture can place children at significant risk.

Children climbing on furniture could cause it to topple over, resulting in serious injury. Each year, several hundred children are injured as a result of falling furniture, some fatally. Children under five are especially at risk.

Most accidents can be prevented by making small changes to your home environment, such as selecting safer furniture and securing unstable furniture to the wall.

Protect your children—follow the safety guidelines in this brochure.



## Make your home a safe place for children

# SAFETY CHECKLIST

### WHEN BUYING FURNITURE

- ✓ Look for storage furniture (such as bookcases, cabinets and chests of drawers) with a broad and stable base rather than legs.
- ✓ Test the furniture in the shop—make sure it is stable (e.g. pull out the top drawers of a chest of drawers and apply a little pressure to see how stable it is; make sure that the drawers do not fall out easily).
- ✓ Choose tables that will not tip if you sit on them or a child climbs on them (glass tables should be made of thick, toughened glass).

### SAFETY AT HOME

- ✓ Always discourage children from climbing on furniture.
- ✓ Move unstable furniture from where children play. Remember that to a child, a chest of drawers or shelves may be used as a ladder.
- ✓ Secure all tall furniture to a wall using angle braces or anchors (available from hardware stores).
- ✓ Put locking devices on all drawers to prevent children opening them and using them as steps.

### CAUTION

- ✗ Do not place heavy items such as large books or speakers on the upper shelves of bookcases and storage units. Keep heavier items on the lower shelves.
- ✗ Never place tempting items such as favourite toys on top of furniture that encourages children to climb up and reach.

#### ANCHORS

Use angle braces or anchors to secure book shelves into a solid surface such as a brick wall or use a wall stud.

As a guide, any furniture unit one metre or higher should be secured.



#### ANGLE BRACES

