

# Crush Injuries

Kidsafe SA Inc. | June 2019

Each year 1-2 children are killed and many are injured from furniture or appliances toppling over and crushing them.

One of the realities of life is that young children do not always use furniture in the way that it is intended. They can be very creative in how they use furniture for play, or to gain access to something that is stored out of reach. For example, bookcases and dressers with drawers can be used as a ladder to reach something that is stored up high.

Other items such as TVs (especially large flat screen TVs), microwaves, and fish tanks can be on unstable stands or bases and topple onto children. Even concrete statues, birdbaths and large pots in the garden can cause problems if they don't have a secure, broad and stable base.



## Tips to avoid furniture or appliances toppling onto young children:

- Choose furniture with a broad and stable base.
- Avoid the use of pedestal tables to hold heavy items.
- Test furniture for stability, especially for tall pieces, or if the item is positioned on uneven surfaces.
- Secure unstable furniture and items to the wall. Secure tall bookcases, shelving, and unstable heavy furniture to walls (into studs) with furniture brackets and/or anchors.
- Anchor TVs to the wall or TV cabinet. Universal anchorages can be found in the back of all TVs.
- Make changes to the layout of the room and furniture to make sure young children are not able to climb onto furniture.
- Put heavier items on bottom shelves and in bottom drawers.
- Remove or block access to tall lamps or coat racks
- Place electrical cords out of a child's reach, and teach young children not to play with the cords.
- Remove items from the top of furniture that might tempt young children to climb, such as toys, lollies, and the remote controls.
- Check the garden and secure garden statues and potted plants.
- Use caution when travelling - the furniture in the hotel or home you are visiting may not be secure.

For information on product recalls or standards, visit the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission's website - [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

For more information contact Kidsafe SA:  
08 8161 6318 | [enquiries@kidsafesa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@kidsafesa.com.au)  
[www.kidsafesa.com.au](http://www.kidsafesa.com.au)

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