

THINK  
SAFETY FIRST



# FURNITURE STABILITY

Office of Fair Trading  
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From a child's point of view, your home looks like a big playground. But there are hidden dangers they don't recognise.

**Think safety first** with these helpful tips.

- **Look for stable-based furniture**

Choose furniture with a broad, solid base and wide legs to keep them well balanced. They are less likely to tip if a small child climbs onto them.

- **Test before you buy**

Test the furniture while you're in the shop. Apply a little pressure to make sure it's stable. Check any type of furniture that has drawers as young children may try to climb up them like a flight of stairs. Pull out the top drawer and press down on the inside to check how stable it is. Make sure the drawers don't fall out easily.

- **Secure any unstable furniture and especially large TV sets**

If you have any doubts about whether your furniture is stable, secure it using furniture straps, angle braces or anchors screwed into wall studs.

- **Choose safe tables**

Choose tables that won't tip over if a child climbs on them. Glass tables should be made of toughened glass.

- **Use child-resistant locks on all drawers**

Locks are a good way of preventing children from opening drawers and using them as steps. Use locks for cupboards storing chemicals, cleaning fluids and other poisons.

- **Don't tempt your child**

Never place items like feeding bottles, toys or remote controls on top of furniture. This will encourage your child to climb up and reach for them.