TV and Furniture Tip-Over Prevention Tips

You wouldn't think to bring a baby home from the hospital without a car seat or have your child ride a bike without a helmet. Protecting your children from the potential risk of TV and furniture tip-overs is another important part of keeping them safe.

Check TVs

• Do a quick check of the stability of all TVs in your home.

Secure TVs

• Mount flat-screen TVs to the wall to prevent them from toppling off stands. If you're replacing your CRT TV with a new TV, be sure your flat-panel TV is properly secured with a mount that has a safety certification by an independent laboratory (such as UL, CSA, ETL.) Follow the manufacturer’s instructions to ensure that you have a secure fit.

• If you have a large, heavy, older, box-style cathode ray tube (CRT) TV, place it on a low, stable piece of furniture.

Secure Furniture

• Use brackets, braces or wall straps to secure unstable or top-heavy furniture to the wall.

• Install stops on dresser drawers to prevent them from being pulled all the way out. Multiple open drawers can cause the weight to shift, making it easier for a dresser to fall.

Rearrange Household Items

• Keep heavier items on lower shelves or in lower drawers.

• Avoid placing remote controls, food, toys or other items in places where kids might be tempted to climb up or reach for them.

Recycle Old TVs

• If you no longer use your CRT TV, consider recycling it. To find a location to safely and easily recycle unwanted TVs, go to www.GreenerGadgets.org. Here are some step-by-step tips to help.

• Every 3 weeks a child dies from a television tipping over. Over the past 10 years, a child visited the emergency room every 45 minutes because of a TV tipping over.