

The Facts of Furniture Tip-Overs

In the wake of three different toddler deaths resulting from IKEA MALM dresser tip-overs, many consumers and safety professionals have called for a national movement to help prevent these types of incidents from happening. Parents especially have raised several concerns regarding the safety of IKEA MALM products.

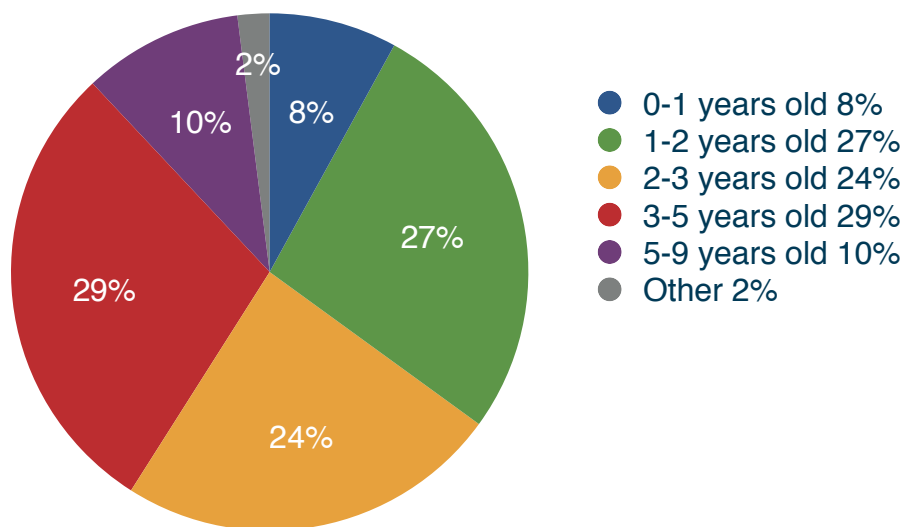
What Does the Term “Furniture Tip-Over” Mean?

The term “furniture tip-over” refers to accidents in which a piece of furniture topples over onto a person, usually a child, causing injury. While many only associate tipping or falling furniture with unusual events like earthquakes, furniture tip-overs are more common and are capable of causing serious injury or even death. In fact, it’s estimated that 1 child dies every two weeks and is injured every 24 minutes in the U.S. from furniture or TV tip-overs.

Who Do Tip-Overs Affect?

Tip over accidents can affect people of all ages and backgrounds. However, the majority of injuries and fatalities from tip-overs occur with children ages 5 and younger. Toddler tip-over accidents are particularly worrisome, as smaller children can become trapped under tipped furniture, leading to asphyxiation, damaged organs, broken bones, and other serious injuries. Tip-over accidents can be equally as dangerous and potentially fatal for adults.

Percentage of tip-over deaths for children, by age bracket.



Where do Tip-Over Accidents Occur?

Furniture tip over accidents can occur in various places in the house. Common areas for tip-overs include:



Bedrooms



Nurseries

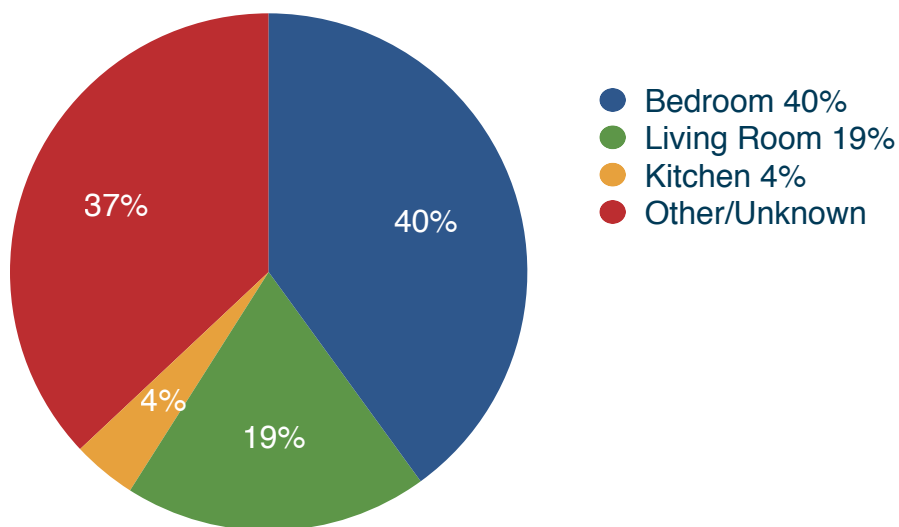


Living Rooms



Kitchens

According to [statistics provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#), 40% of tip-over fatalities occur in the bedroom; 19% occur in the living room, 4% occur in the kitchen, and 37% occur in other/unknown places.



2011 CPSC data also indicates that 69% of emergency room-treated tip-over injuries occur in residential settings, while 4% occur in public settings, and the remaining 27% occur in unspecified areas. These statistics underscore the importance of well-designed furniture that is resistant to tipping over, regardless of the setting.

How do Furniture Tip-Over Accidents Occur?

- Inherently unstable furniture units that fail to meet minimum safety standards
- Pulling out dresser drawers
- Children climbing on the furniture
- Children playing near the furniture
- Persons bumping, pulling, hitting, or moving the furniture

About Unstable and Defective Products

According to the minimal furniture safety standards issued by the ASTM International, the global leader in the development of standards to enhance health and safety, furniture items such as dressers and chests should be stable by design, and capable of resisting tip-overs. For instance, empty dressers need to remain stable when all the drawers are completely opened. Further, the dresser should not tip over when 50 pounds of weight are hung from the front edge of an open drawer (to simulate the weight of a small child).

Many furniture manufacturers meet these minimal standards for their products. However, some products, such as the IKEA MALM dresser, fail to meet these minimal standards, and begin toppling over even when drawers are opened with no weight on them. These MALM dressers have recently been the focus of a series of toddler tip-over death investigations. Thus, it's important to select furniture items that conform to industry standards, reducing the chance of tip-overs. It is also critical for industry standards to be strengthened to make sure that dressers and similar items are safe for their intended and foreseeable use.

Reporting Furniture Tip-Overs

It's important to report any incidents involving a furniture tip-over. This will help manufacturers and the CPSC identify dangerous products, so they can take action accordingly. In some cases, product recalls may result from reports of dangerous products. Unfortunately, despite multiple deaths and other injuries, IKEA has to date been unwilling to issue a recall of its MALM dressers and other unsafe furniture products.

It may be advantageous to speak directly with an attorney for more advice and guidance regarding an IKEA furniture tip-over injury or wrongful death claim.

Do you have any information regarding a furniture tip-over incident? [Share your IKEA tip-over story](#) with us directly at furniture-tip-over-accidents.com.

Sources:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/135118/tipover2012.pdf>

<http://www.safekids.org/tv-and-furniture-tip-overs-0>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Neighborhood-Safety-Network/Posters/1-Child-Dies-Every-Two-Weeks/>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/2013/The-Tipping-Point-Highest-Number-of-TV-and-Furniture-Tip-Over-Deaths-Recorded-By-CPSC-in-2011/>