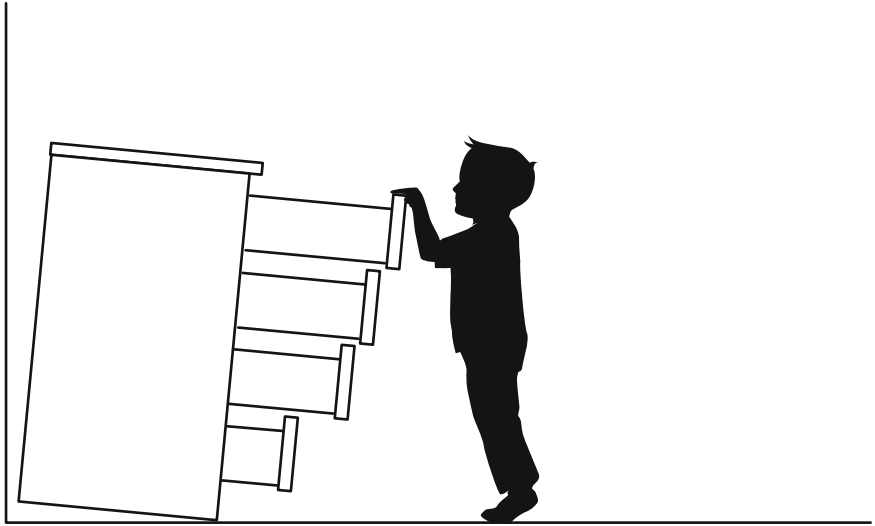


# Let's talk about tipping furniture

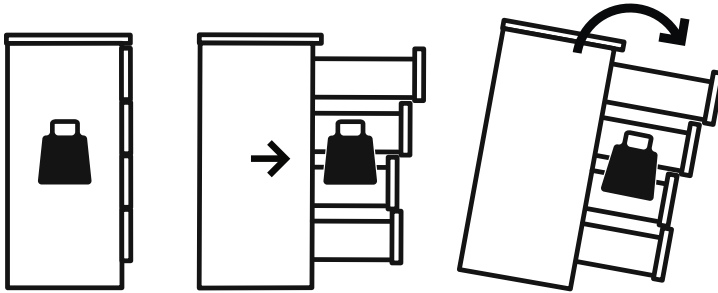


One might think that only high, narrow furniture can tip over – not a low, deep chest of drawers filled with heavy things. But, if several drawers are open, the centre of gravity shifts and the chest of drawers tips over. Unfortunately, both children and adults can be seriously injured, even fatally, if they end up under the weight of a falling chest of drawers.



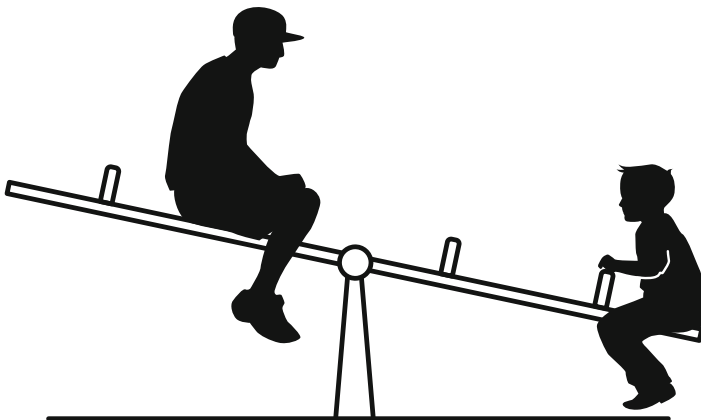
## Remember the laws of physics?

When we develop our furniture, we do everything we can to make them as stable and safe as possible. It affects the choice of materials and the furniture's construction. But, we haven't yet figured out how to outsmart the laws of nature. Like the fact that a pulled out drawer works like a lever.



Perhaps you remember the principle of leverage from the physics lessons in school? If not, it can be described like this; even a small weight can shift the centre of gravity considerably if the weight is applied to a pulled out

drawer (or an open door). It means that a small child that stands, sits or climbs on an open drawer can cause a large chest of drawers to tip over if it's not secured – despite the child's low weight.



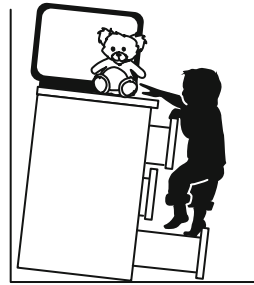
## Children and tipping chests of drawers

Children are curious and creative. That's how they learn new things and discover the world around them. But, it also contributes to children 1-7 years old being more accident-prone.

And the smallest ones, 1-4 years old, are most at risk of serious injuries. That's why a chest of drawers – no matter model or size – can be a hazard if it isn't secured to the wall.

There are examples from all over the world where children have pulled out one or several drawers and climbed on them like a ladder, hung on, heaved up on, or climbed into them.

But, by always securing your chest of drawers to the wall you can prevent and minimize the risks for children who explore the world.



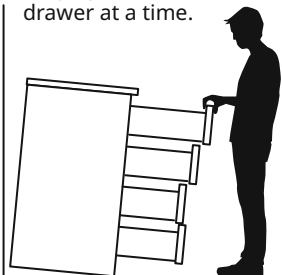
Avoid heavy objects or things that tempt your child to climb on top.

## Adults and tipping chests of drawers

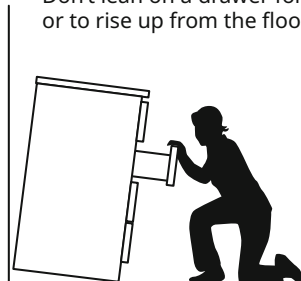
It isn't just children who accidentally tip over chests of drawers and risk injuries. Even as adults we sometimes open several drawers at the same time, especially if we're in a hurry. Another mistake we sometimes make is to put too many or too heavy things in the front of the drawers. In all

these cases the centre of gravity shifts outside the base of the furniture and they tip over. An uneven floor, a carpet edge or a thick wall-to-wall carpet can also cause instability and tipping accidents.

Only open one drawer at a time.



Don't lean on a drawer for support or to rise up from the floor.



## Myths and misconceptions

Sometimes it can be hard to discover the potential hazards in your own home where everything is familiar. Here we unravel some common myths and misconceptions.

### **"My chest of drawers is heavy, there's no risk that it will tip over."**

No matter how logical this might feel, it's actually wrong. All furniture can tip over. They become unstable if they have open drawers or doors that work as a lever and move the centre of gravity. The force that's generated when furniture tip over can be strong and cause very serious accidents – especially if they're heavy-loaded.

### **"My chest of drawers is low, there's no risk that it will tip over."**

Low furniture can tip too and risk injuring someone. If several drawers are opened at the same time, the centre of gravity moves. And when too much weight is distributed from the centre of a chest of drawers, it tips over. A child that climbs on it, affects the centre of gravity the same way. That's why you should always follow the assembly instructions that show how to secure your furniture to the wall.





**"I rent my home and can't drill holes in the wall."**

Most landlords in most parts of the world think it's OK if you secure your furniture to create a safe home for your children. But, it's good to talk to your landlord and perhaps explain what risks there are. Feel free to spread some of the knowledge we are sharing here.

**"My children are older, they know not to climb the furniture."**

When children play, they sometimes forget what you have told them. Just because they are older doesn't mean it's all safe. In addition, many adults, especially elderly, hurt themselves badly, sometimes fatally, in accidents with furniture that tip over.

**"The chest of drawers is in a room where the children never play."**

As a parent, it's hard to keep an eye on your children at all times. Unfortunately, many accidents happen when you lack foresight. Luckily you have good possibilities to minimize the risks if you secure chests of drawers and other furniture to the wall – even in rooms where the children don't spend much time.

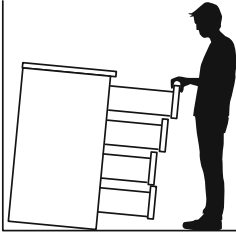
**"I have latched all drawers and doors."**

That's all well. But, latching drawers and doors can't replace securing the furniture and doesn't eliminate all risks. A child learning to walk usually likes to heave up against a chest of drawers by pulling a handle, and can thereby make it tip over.

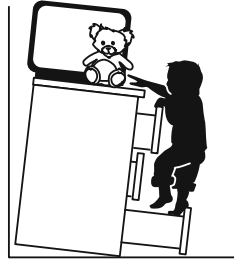


## What causes tip-overs?

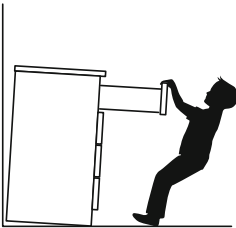
Accidents can happen in many ways. All of them are easily prevented by securing the furniture to the wall.



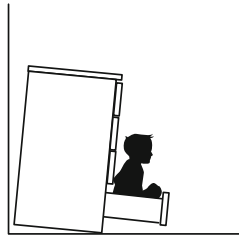
Opening several drawers at the same time, in search of something.



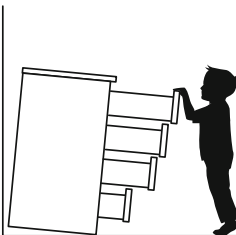
Using the drawers as a ladder to reach an object.



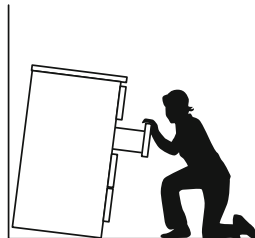
Pulling or hanging in a drawer for fun.



Sitting in a drawer during play.



Opening all the drawers at the same time out of curiosity.

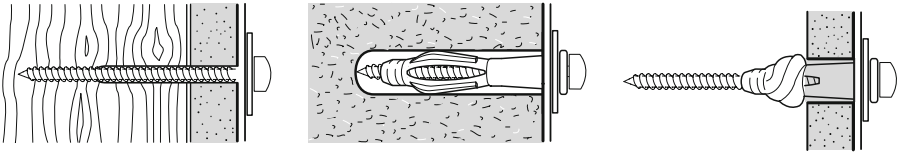


Leaning on a drawer for support or to rise up from the floor.

**Note:** Heavy objects on top of chest of drawers increase the tip-over hazard. Also, pay attention to soft carpets and uneven or leaning floors. They can cause instability.

## Secure your chest of drawers, simple and safe

When you buy a chest of drawers from IKEA you should always follow the assembly instructions and secure it with the accompanied fittings. They're easy to mount, and screws and plugs are included. Just fill the holes with putty when you want to move your chest of drawers, or are moving to another home.



The plugs and screws that come with your IKEA product can be used with most solid and hollow walls. For solid wood walls, use the screws without plugs. If needing additional screws

and plugs, there are sets available in the IKEA range. If you are not sure what you need, seek professional advice.

## See how easy it is!



Want to know how to secure your  
piece of furniture to the wall?  
Watch a short instructional film.

Scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.IKEA.com/secure-it](http://www.IKEA.com/secure-it)

