



Furniture Shopping Checklist

With a new federal safety standard in place, finding stable furniture is easier than ever.

In September 2023, a new federal safety standard was applied to all clothing storage furniture 27 inches and taller. This includes chests, dressers, cabinets and even some nightstands (depending on their storage capacity).

This type of furniture was targeted by the new standard because, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, items with drawers that youngsters can climb are involved in the majority of furniture tip-over injuries and fatalities.

Furniture produced after September 2023 is less likely to tip over due to stringent new stability tests in the 2023 standard. These tests simulate the real-world impact of children climbing on furniture. Nevertheless, if small children are around, take the precaution of anchoring furniture to the wall.

If you are shopping for a chest or dresser – whether for a child, another family member or yourself – here are three tips that keep safety in mind:

- 1. Request the manufacture date.** If you have small children at home (or care for them on a regular basis), you should insist on furniture manufactured *after* September 2023. This ensures that it is covered by the new standard known as **ASTM F2057-23**. This standard was created to meet requirements of the STURDY Act passed by Congress in 2022. The manufacture date is seldom included in online product descriptions, so you may find it easier to shop in a store with a sales associate who can confirm this important product detail.
- 2. Purchase older furniture with caution.** Most furniture manufactured prior to September 2023 met a voluntary stability standard that also required stability testing. These products are not as stable as those manufactured after September 2023 but may be suitable for households without small children or elderly occupants. If shopping online, the product description should say, “Complies with ASTM F2057-19.” All clothing storage furniture, no matter when it was produced, should come with tip restraints and instructions for using them.
- 3. About those tip restraints.** Earlier this year, 31 furniture companies recalled the plastic zip tie-style tip restraint kits that were attached to furniture sold in stores and online since November of 2019. A list of those companies and instructions for ordering a free replacement tip kit is found at <https://alliance4safety.org/new-age-recall>. New clothing storage furniture should come with a tip restraint kit labeled as compliant with **ASTM F3096**, which is a safety standard developed for furniture anchors. Tip restraints can also be ordered online or purchased in a hardware store. They are inexpensive and easy to install. Just be sure to select a brand that is labeled ASTM F3096-compliant.

For detailed furniture anchoring instructions, go to www.AnchorIt.gov.