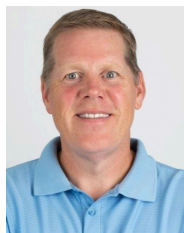


THE MULLARKEY MINUTE

Your Local Insurance Agent News / Villanova University Edition



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SECURE HEAVY FURNITURE TO A WALL

Securing heavy furniture to prevent tip-overs is essential for safety – especially if you have children or pets. Here's how to properly anchor heavy furniture in your home.

Determine your wall type.

- Identify whether your interior walls are made of drywall (constructed with plasterboard, sheetrock, etc.), plaster (a smooth and hard wall made of lime, gypsum, sand and water) or masonry (brick, concrete blocks, stone, etc.).
- For drywall, you'll want to use toggle bolts or heavy-duty drywall anchors.
- For plaster or masonry walls, opt for plastic or lead wall plugs that are more suitable for brick or concrete.

Identify what needs to be anchored.

- In general, you want to make sure that any one piece of furniture in your home is able to withstand a pull force of 50 pounds without tipping over.
- Furniture such as dressers, bookshelves, file cabinets, and entertainment centers are good candidates for anchoring because they are typically heavy enough to cause injuries.

Installation prep

- Using a stud finder, determine the best spot to anchor the furniture
- Use a pencil or painter's tape to mark where the wall stud is, as well as the back of the furniture to be secured in the corresponding spots.

- On drywall or plaster, use a wood drill to attach brackets 2" below where you marked the stud. Masonry walls require specialized drilling tools, so it may be less expensive to hire a professional than to purchase masonry equipment.
- Use a wood drill and screws to attach brackets to a solid part of your furnishing, about 2" under the pencil/tape marking. For electronics and furnishings that can't easily be drilled, you may need specialized anchors and a screwdriver to attach brackets.

Attaching furniture to the anchor

- Move the furniture against the wall, allowing a few inches for securing straps.
- Secure the furniture-mounted brackets to the wall-mounted brackets.
- Hook one end of the strap onto the furniture and the other end to the wall.
- Tighten the straps

Finishing up

- Fill in any holes left by screws with caulk and allow time to dry.
- Paint over the patched areas to match your wall color.

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Source: <https://libertyplus.libertymutual.com/task/secure-heavy-furniture-to-a-wall>

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