

HIGH CHAIRS



**INJURIES INVOLVING
HIGH CHAIRS
ACCOUNT FOR 25% OF
NURSERY FURNITURE
ACCIDENTS**

Research indicates that **product failure** and **unsafe childhood practices** cause injuries from high chairs, especially in the 0-4 age bracket.

Three-quarters of childhood injuries are caused by children **falling out** after standing up or trying to climb into or out of the high chair.

There is currently no mandatory Australian Standard for High Chairs. However, before you buy:

For maximum safety, choose a high chair fitted with a crotch strap (between the legs), straps over both shoulders and a waist belt, known as a **"5-Point Harness"**.

- Check that folding high chairs are stable and that locks work properly. Ask for a demonstration.
- Before you purchase a seat designed to attach to a table, make sure your table is a heavy one and is easily able to support the seat without tipping over. Make sure that slip-resistant mounting devices are in good condition.
- If in any doubt it is recommended that you **do not** use a seat designed to attach to a table.

'Real life' Case

Boy 20 months suddenly stood up in highchair (no shoulder harness) and fell out, causing severe concussion.

Safe Practices

- Always provide adequate supervision
- Ensure that the child's hands are free from entrapment when adjusting or placing the tray into position.
- Place the high chair out of reach when not in use.
- Supervise at all times.
- If you have to leave the room, take the child out of the high chair and take the child with you.
- If the high chair is adjustable, position the chair at its lowest point to the ground.

- Secure wheel locks.
- Ensure that the high chair is positioned away from any dangerous areas, including:
 - Ⓜ Stoves
 - Ⓜ Doorways
 - Ⓜ Appliance cords
 - Ⓜ Windows
 - Ⓜ Curtains or blind cords (at least 500mm)

REMEMBER IT IS SAFER FOR THE ADULT TO GET DOWN LOW TO THE CHILD'S HEIGHT, THAN FOR THE CHILD TO BE UP HIGH AT THE ADULT'S



Second-Hand High Chairs

- If you are buying a second-hand high chair that doesn't have a harness, buy a **5-point harness** and secure the harness to the high chair.
- Secure any loose or broken parts **immediately**.
- Repair any tears in the seat, as the foam padding can cause **choking**.
- To prevent injury, always supervise any child's use of the high chair **at all times**.

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child safety is no accident