Used furniture safety checklist

Before you buy or pick up second-hand furniture: bed bugs, recalls and tip-over safety, from Health Canada and the Government of Canada recalls site.

NAME _____ DATE _____

BEFORE YOU GO

- ☐ Search the brand and model on the Recalls and safety alerts site (recalls-rappels.canada.ca)
- ☐ Bring a flashlight and a thin card (an old card works) for checking crevices
- ☐ Ask the seller whether they have had bed bugs

NEVER

- ☐ Never take a mattress or sofa from the curb
- ☐ Be very cautious with second-hand or refurbished upholstered items and mattresses

INSPECT BEFORE IT GOES IN YOUR VEHICLE

- ☐ Remove cushions; check seams, creases and zippers
- ☐ Check where legs join the upholstery and where fabric is tacked to the frame
- ☐ Pull out drawers; check inside, under, sides, back and legs
- ☐ Check wicker closely
- ☐ Look for black or brown spots, tiny white eggs, live or dead bugs; if you see any, do not take it

STABILITY

- ☐ Wide, stable base that sits on the floor (legs or wheels tip more easily)
- ☐ All parts and assembly instructions included; reassemble as the instructions say
- ☐ Anchor dressers and bookcases to a wall stud or with heavy-duty anchors made for furniture (ask your landlord before drilling)
- ☐ Heavier items in lower drawers

AFTER

- ☐ Check your vehicle after moving furniture
- ☐ Keep the seller's name and the date, in case you need to follow up

Replace every [bracket] with your own words.

SOURCES (CHECKED 2026-11-26)

Check current details on the official page. https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/bedbugs-how-do-i-prevent-infestation.html (checked 2026-11-26)
Check current details on the official page. https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/household-products/furniture-appliance-television-tip-overs.html (checked 2026-11-26)
Check current details on the official page. https://recalls-rappels.canada.ca/en (checked 2026-11-26)