



## Folding Cafeteria Tables

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns school officials that children cannot safely move mobile folding tables commonly found in school cafeterias and meeting rooms. The tall heavy tables can weigh up to 300 pounds and can tip-over with only 27 pounds of tipping pressure to collapse. Once tipped, the tables falls with a force of over 8 tons.



To avoid injuries from the tip-over of folded tables, school administrators and those supervising after school or non-school activities should follow these safety rules:

- Do not allow children to move the folded tables. Only adults should move tables.
- Do not allow children to play with folded tables.
- If possible, place folded tables in a locked storage room. If this is not possible, block and secure tables away from children. Using several tables left in the open position as a barrier is an effective method of blocking stored tables.
- Plan to move tables when children are not present. If this is unavoidable, notify teachers, aides, or any other adult present that the tables are going to be moved and the children must be kept at a safe distance.
- Inspect tables weekly. Do not store tables folded if the safety features (lock bars, key access to unlock) are not functioning properly. Submit a work request to maintenance services or contact the manufacture for replacement parts.
- All tables should have yellow warning stickers attached to the frame on each side, positioned so that they are easily readable when tables are in the folded position. Warning label should state "Tip-Over Hazard! DO NOT Allow Children Move or Play with Mobile Folding Tables". Contact the manufacture for labels.

For more information about the safe use of mobile folding tables, contact the manufacture of the table. Report an unsafe product or product related injury to the CPSC at [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov).

### References

Consumer Product Safety Commission,  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

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