

Mobile bookcase

A student sustained mild injuries after a mobile bookcase became unbalanced and toppled, hitting the student on the back. It was discovered that two of the castors were damaged, causing the bookcase to become more unstable.

What is the risk?

These mobile bookcases can become unstable if there is damage to the frame or castors.

What should schools do?

1. Check the frame and castors of the bookcase regularly. Remove the bookcase from use immediately if:
 - a. castor(s) are damaged; or
 - b. there is any damage to the frame that causes it to be unstable.
2. Repair the trolley
 - a. Check if the bookcase is still under warranty and if it can be repaired by the manufacturer; and
 - b. If not, contact an appropriate contractor for repair action – if there is significant damage to the frame of the bookcase, it might not be viable to repair. If there is damage to the castors *only* then may these be replaced.
3. Do not use the bookcase to move items between classrooms or buildings. The bookcase is designed as a mobile display for the classroom – not as a weight bearing trolley.
4. If moving the empty book case between rooms, ensure the castors are carefully moved over any door lips, uneven surfaces, etc. Damage can easily occur if the castor is caught in a door lip or similar, and then force is exerted upon it.
5. To improve stability of the bookcase:
 - a. Items should be stacked on the bookshelf side of the bookcase – not just the display side; and
 - b. Heavier items should be stacked on the lower shelves, rather than upper shelves, of the bookshelf side of the cabinet.
6. As with any bookcase, ensure students do not hang onto, stand or pull on the shelves.

