Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt

Recommendations for reducing earthquake hazards in your home are presented on the other side of this poster.

- Strap down computers
- Strengthen garages that have living space above them
- Secure cabinets to wall studs; use latches to keep cabinet doors from flying open during an earthquake
- Prevent rolling or tilting of refrigerators
- Strap down televisions and other expensive or hazardous electrical components
- Know how and when to shut off utilities
- Brace water heaters
- Ensure that gas appliances have flexible connections
- Update unbraced crawlspace walls (or other foundation problems)
- Brace or replace masonry chimneys
- Secure ceiling fans and hanging light fixtures
- Strap bookcases and shelves to walls to prevent tipping
- Know how and when to shut off utilities
With your powers of perception more finely tuned, you may wish to extend these

What would happen to heavy furniture, fixtures, and appliances?

- Look at tall bookcases and shelves. How much would fall off the shelves? For an earthquake and safety steps you can take during and after an earthquake.
- Secure mirrors, pictures, plants, and other objects on closed hooks.
- Look at tall bookcases and shelves. How much would fall off the shelves?
- Secure the wood sill and wall framing to the foundation using anchor bolts.
- Use straps or ties to secure the wood sill and wall framing to the foundation.
- Add bracing to support air conditioners, particularly on rooftops.
- Where do you sit or sleep? Anchor heavy mirrors and pictures over beds, chairs, and couches with wire through eye screws into studs. Locate beds away from breakables from sliding out.
- Do you have hanging light fixtures or plants? Could they swing and hit a window?
- Prevent refrigerators, washers, and other heavy appliances from moving by placing metal straps and buckles for easy removal and relocation.
- Look at tall bookcases and shelves. How much would fall off the shelves?
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- Check the wood sill and wall framing for proper connection to the foundation.

Garages With Living Spaces Above

- The large opening of a garage door and the weights of a secondary room built over the garage can result in the garage walls being too weak to withstand cracks or earthquake shaking, resulting in the collapse of the narrow sections of the wall on each side of the garage door opening. In this condition, the garage door opening is unstable, and the forces of horizontal movement are transmitted to the garage walls. This force can cause the garage walls to move sideways, and the garage door opening to become unstable.
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