

# PROTECTING DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

The tremors caused by even minor earthquakes can easily move personal computer systems, stereo systems, television sets, and other small appliances that typically sit on desks, tables, and countertops. If they fall, they can cause injury or be damaged beyond repair.

As shown in the drawings, you can protect desktop computers and other small appliances by restraining them in a variety of ways. Some methods, such as using hook-and-loop material (Velcro for example), require no tools. Others, which include using chain, cables, or elastic cord ("bungee" cords for example), will usually require simple hand tools.

Keep these points in mind when you restrain desktop computers and appliances:

- Make sure that the desk or table the appliance sits on is not so light that it can be easily overturned. If it is, and you can't move the appliance to another location, consider anchoring the desk or table to the floor or wall.
- You can anchor the ends of chains, cables, or elastic cords to either the wall or the surface of the desk, table, or counter using eye-hooks, rings, screws and washers, or other types of mounts.
- If you want to use a wall-anchored chain, cable, or cord, attach it to a closed eye-hook screwed into the wall or to a wall mount (such as a ring or plate) attached with screws. Make sure the eye-hook or screws are long enough to penetrate not just the wall but the studs behind it as well.

