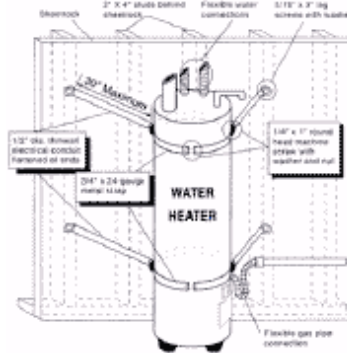


PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY FROM EARTHQUAKES

In an earthquake, falling furnishings and their contents can become damaged or cause injury. Protect your belongings and yourself from falling furniture and contents by securing them ahead of time.

- **Bolt bookcases, china cabinets, and other tall furniture to wall studs. Brace or anchor high or top-heavy objects.** During an earthquake, these items can fall over, causing damage or injury. For more information
- **Secure items that might fall (televisions, books, computers, etc.).** Falling items can cause damage or injury.
- **Install strong latches or bolts on cabinets.** The contents of cabinets can shift during the shaking of an earthquake. Latches will prevent cabinets from flying open and contents from falling out.
- **Move large or heavy objects and fragile items (glass or china) to lower shelves.** There will be less damage and less chance of injury if these items are on lower shelves.
- **Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.** Latches will help keep contents of cabinets inside.
- **Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches, on bottom shelves.** Chemical products will be less likely to create hazardous situations from lower, confined locations.
- **Hang heavy items, such as pictures and mirrors, away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit.** Earthquakes can knock things off walls, causing damage or injury.
- **Brace overhead light fixtures.** During earthquakes, overhead light fixtures can fall, causing damage or injury.



- **Strap the water heater to wall studs.**

The water heater may be your best source of drinkable water following an earthquake and, if it's connected to the gas, it could snap at the connection and result in leaking gas and possible explosion.. Protect it from damage and leaks.

- **Bolt down any gas appliances.** After an earthquake, broken gas lines frequently create fire hazards.
- **Install flexible pipe fittings to avoid gas or water leaks.** Flexible fittings will be less likely to break..
- **Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.** Earthquakes can turn cracks into ruptures and make smaller problems bigger.
- **Check to see if your house is bolted to its foundation.** Homes bolted to their foundations are less likely to be severely damaged during earthquakes. Homes that are not bolted have been known to slide off their foundations, and many have been destroyed because they are uninhabitable.
- **Consider having your building evaluated by a professional structural design engineer.** Ask about home repair and strengthening tips for exterior features, such as porches, front and back decks, sliding glass doors, canopies, carports, and garage doors. Learn about additional ways you can protect your home. A professional can give you advice on how to reduce potential damage