








HOME HAZARD HUNT

KNOW YOUR RISKS



During an earthquake, flying and falling debris cause the majority of injuries and financial loss. Conduct a home hazard hunt to identify and eliminate dangers to protect your family and home. Walk through each room and identify any objects that could fall and injure someone, cause a fire, block an exit route, or would be costly to replace. For hazards that cannot be mitigated, consider purchasing insurance to cover the costs of damage.

	THE RISK	THE FIX
 Large Appliances	Large appliances such as fridges, ovens, washers and dryers may move or topple, rupturing gas or electrical lines.	Secure large appliances to wall studs and install longer, flexible gas connectors and electrical cords.
 Small Appliances	Small appliances and electronics such as microwaves, televisions, stereos, computers, etc. may fall off shelves or surfaces.	Secure using double-sided tape, Velcro or anti-skid pads. Or put restraining edges on shelf or surface.
 Tall Furniture	Tall furniture, such as bookcases and display cabinets, may fall over causing damage or blocking exits – particularly anything taller than it is wide.	Affix to wall studs with metal brackets.
 Heavy Objects	Breakable or heavy objects may fall, causing injury or damage.	Move to lower shelves or put restraining edges on shelf or surface.
 Mirrors & Pictures	Mirrors and pictures may fall, causing injury or damage.	Move away from beds, couches and exits and properly secure to the wall.
 Windows	Windows may shatter, causing broken glass and injuries.	Add a protective film and move beds or couches away from windows. Thick curtains and blinds may offer some protection from flying glass.
 Cabinets	Doors on your kitchen, bathroom and workroom cabinets may not stay closed during heavy shaking.	Install safety latches and place heavy items on bottom shelves.

THE RISK

THE FIX



Hanging Lamps & Plants

Hanging lamps and plants may fall and if located close to windows, may swing and break the glass.

Consider the location, screw the hook into a ceiling stud and close the opening on the hook with lock wire.



Chemicals & Cleaners

Chemicals and cleaners that are accessible to children and pets are a hazard. Spilled flammable liquids can easily start a fire.

Move to a locked, well-ventilated storage area and away from high, open shelving, heat sources and food/water storage.



Hot Water Tank

Unsecured water tanks may fall over, rupturing water and gas connections.

Secure to wall studs with steel strapping.



Chimney & Roof

Loose tiles and bricks may fall and chimneys could fall through an unsupported roof.

Remove or replace tiles as necessary and strengthen the roof around the chimney.



Gas Shut-Off

An earthquake can cause a gas leak. If you smell gas (rotten egg smell), hear a leak (hissing noise) or if there is a fire nearby, turn off your gas.

Make sure you know where your gas shut off valve is and how to turn off. Keep a suitable wrench close. Do not practice shutting off your gas. Only a qualified professional can turn your gas back on.



Electrical Boxes

Electricity in your home could cause shocks or fire in the event of flooding or an earthquake.

If power is disrupted, turn off the main circuit breaker, as well as individual circuits or fuses, to lessen the risk when power is restored.



Water Shut-Off

Bursting pipes or earthquake damage can cause flooding.

Make sure you know where the shut-off valve is and how to turn off the water line, if necessary.



Foundation

If not properly bolted to the foundation, strong shaking may cause houses to move off their foundations.

Ensure your house is firmly secured to the foundation.



Local Hazards

There may be hazards outside of your home, such as overhead wires or stream banks that may not be stable.

Identify these hazards and incorporate them into your planning.