



Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt

Is your home vulnerable to earthquake damage? I think we can all answer that question in the affirmative so take a good look around. Your earthquake home hazard hunt should begin with all family members participating. Foresight, imagination, and common sense are all that are needed as you go into to room imagining what would happen if the earth and house started shaking. Anything that can move, break, or fall when your house starts to shake is a potential hazard. Here are some mitigation ideas:

- Strap bookcases, heavy furniture and shelves to walls to prevent tipping. Strap down electronics or other hazardous electrical components. Secure ceiling fans and hanging light fixtures. Securely fasten or relocate heavy pictures and mirrors over beds and furniture. Straps and heavy duty Velcro are readily available.
- Brace water heaters and ensure that gas models have flexible connectors. Ensure gas appliances have flexible connectors.
- Secure cabinets to wall studs, use latches to keep cabinet doors from flying open during an earthquake. Use museum putty to secure breakable display items to shelves.
- Upgrade unbraced crawlspace walls or other foundation problems. Brace or replace masonry chimneys. Strengthen garages that have living space above them.
- Know where your utility shut offs are located and when and how to shut them off.