



Home Hazard Hunt

All of Washington State has the potential of being impacted by major disasters such as earthquakes. Take the time to identify and fix potential household hazards.

Earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning. When they occur, they cause the ground to undulate and shake, perhaps violently. Buildings - and their contents - are vulnerable to this rocking and rolling. Fortunately, experts teach how to secure homes to their foundations and contents to wall studs.

Identifying potential home hazards:

Take 30 minutes to walk through your home. Imagine the ground movement of a significant earthquake. Identify potential hazards by completing this worksheet.

- Check your water heater. Is it securely fastened to the wall studs with heavy-metal strapping at the top and bottom? Not metal plumber's tape.

___ Yes ___ No

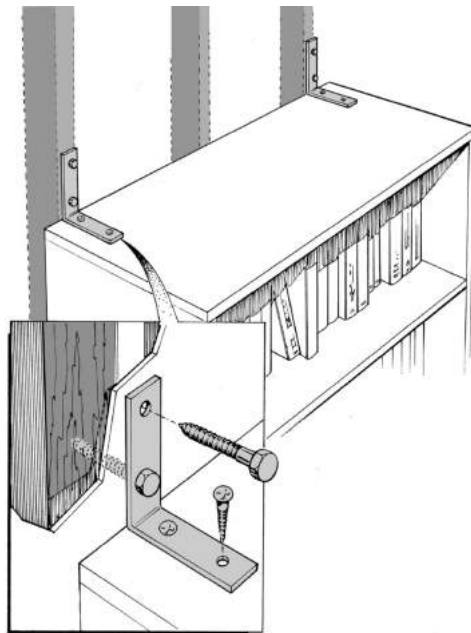
- Does your water heater have flexible water and gas connectors?

___ Yes ___ No

- Tall pieces of furniture are especially vulnerable in earthquakes. Identify each bookcase, china hutch, and armoire which needs fastening.

- Identify heavy or breakable objects on high shelves. Pay special attention to objects with sentimental value. Move heavy objects to lower shelves.

- Identify computers, stereos, televisions, microwaves and other small appliances that need to be secured.



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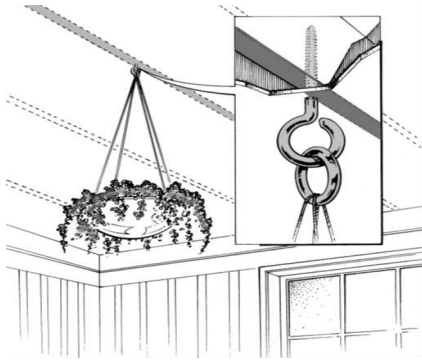
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Home Hazard Hunt

“How to” videos: www.youtube.com/user/EMDPrepare

- Identify hanging plants, especially heavy baskets, and hanging lights near windows.



- Identify mirrors, heavily-framed pictures, and framed artwork that needs to be secured to the wall studs. Pay special attention to items hung over beds.

- Identify kitchen, bedroom, and garage cabinets that need to be secured to keep their contents inside during the ground shaking.

- Inspect the foundation of your home. Is your home securely fastened to it? Check with your local city office which issues building permits for regulations.

___ Yes ___ No

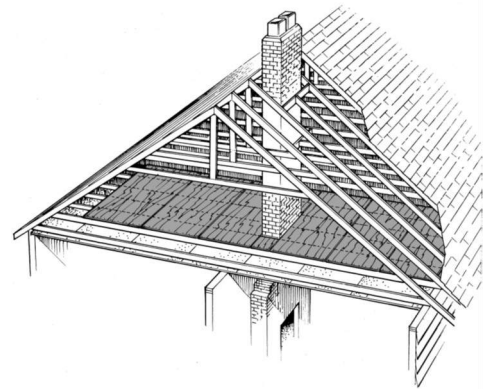
Does your chimney have loose bricks?

___ Yes ___ No

- Has your attic been reinforced with plywood to help prevent chimney bricks from falling into living areas?

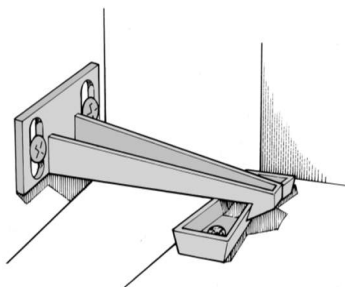
___ Yes ___ No

- Identify poisons, toxics, or solvents in breakable containers that are located in high or dangerous locations



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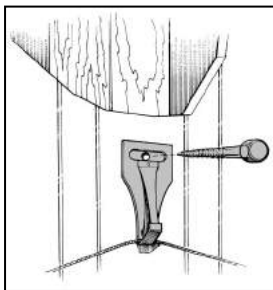
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Home Hazard Hunt

Secure Wall Hangings

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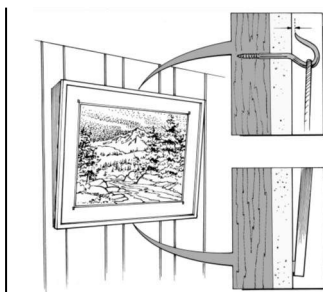
Framed pictures - securing them helps prevent cut feet:

The ground swells and rolls of major earthquakes easily can knock heavy pictures and mirrors off the walls. This can be especially dangerous in the night if these unsecured items are located close to your bed or during the day if they are located close to your favorite chair or sofa.

Cut feet from broken framing glass and mirrors is one of the most common injuries resulting from major earthquakes. Securing your pictures helps prevent this common injury.

Screw hook into wall, leaving just enough space to slide the wire onto the hook.

Secure the bottom corners of these items with Quake-Hold™ - type products.



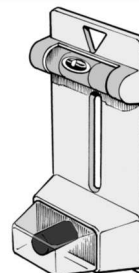
Securing artwork, pictures, and mirrors:

- Use a stud finder to find the closest wall stud.
- Place a screw hook into the wall stud so that there is barely enough room to slide the framing wire between the wall and the hook. This will help prevent the wire from jumping off the hook during potentially violent movement of an earthquake.
- If the artwork or mirror is large and/or heavy, you may want to consider securing it to two wall studs.
- Secure the bottom corners of these items with Quake-Hold™ - type products to keep them from banging against the wall. This helps keep the framing glass from breaking and damaging the artwork or photo.

Securing hanging objects:

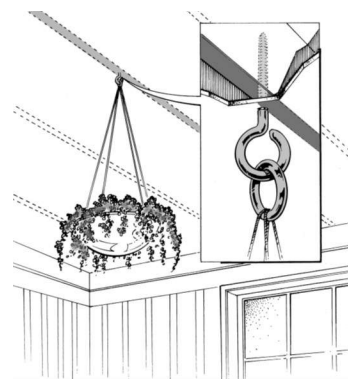
Carefully check the location of all hanging plants and other objects. Determine if these objects are close enough to windows to strike them in the wild motion of an earthquake. If they are, consider moving them.

- Find the ceiling stud by using a stud finder.



Example of a stud finder.

- Screw the hook directly into the ceiling stud.
- Hang the object from this hook.
- Close the opening in the hook with a pair of pliers to prevent the object from leaping off the hook during an earthquake.



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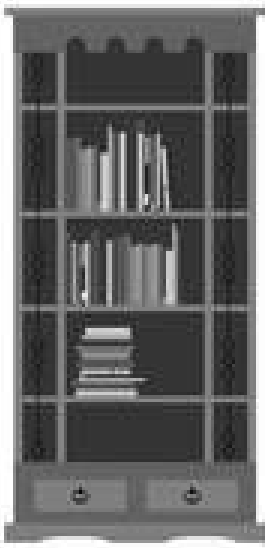
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Picture hanging hooks that actually close are also a good choice for securing pictures.

Secure Tall Furniture

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Earthquakes: A Sudden Release of Energy:

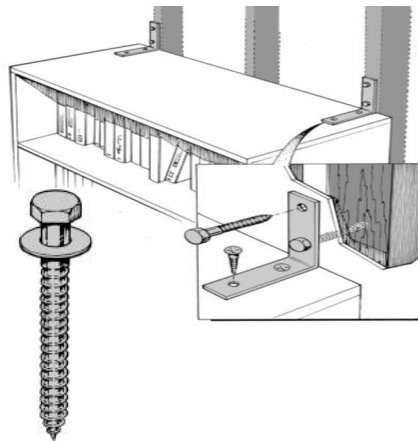
The forces that create earthquakes cause the earth to literally move producing:

- Ground rolling and undulating, from a few inches to a few feet in height.
- Ground shaking, from a few seconds to a few minutes in duration.

Tall pieces of furniture such as bookcases, china hutches, and armoires are very likely to fall when the ground is rolling and shaking. You can prevent them from falling on someone you care about and save their contents by completing these simple steps.

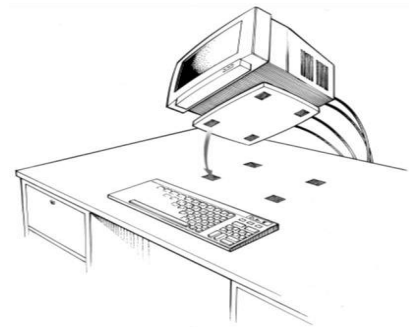
Securing bookcases and all things tall:

1. Secure the furniture item into the wall stud.
 - Locate the wall studs using a stud finder.
 - Secure each furniture piece to at least two wall studs, depending on the size and with, using 4” L-brackets and 3” lag screws, available at all hardware stores.
 - There are commercially available kits utilizing nylon strapping that also are recommended.

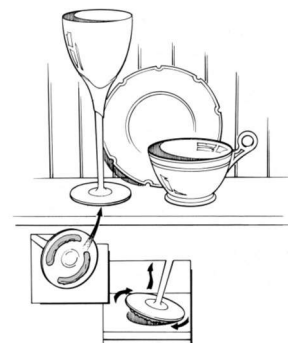


2. Place heavy and/or large items on lower shelves to prevent them from flying around the room.

3. The ground swells and rolls of an earthquake can cause anything resting on shelves or counter tops to fall - TVs, stereos, computers, microwaves, lamps, etc. An easy way to protect against these types of losses is to use Velcro™ or other similar products.
 - Choose a Velcro™-type product that has adhesive on the back.
 - Cut the Velcro™ into large squares. You will need four squares to secure most items, one for each leg or corner of the items.
 - Press the two sides of the Velcro™ together.
 - Remove the paper from the backs of the Velcro™ to expose the adhesive.
 - With the Velcro™ still pressed together, stick it on the legs or corners of the item, and then place the item on the shelf or counter top where you want it located.



4. More delicate items, like knickknacks, pottery, crystal vases, etc. can be secured with products like Quake Hold™ or Museum Wax™, available at many hardware stores.

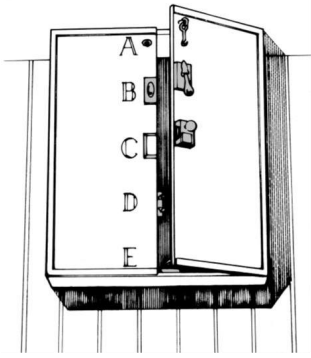


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Kitchen & Cabinet Safety

“How to” videos: www.youtube.com/user/EMDPrepare



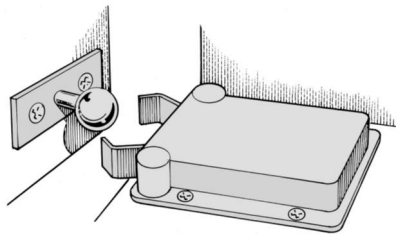
Kitchen Cabinets:

The ground undulation and acceleration of an earthquake can cause cabinet doors to fly open and contents to spill onto the floor. Glass jars and dishes can shatter and cause injuries and damage. Heavy objects can fly across the room, injuring anyone in their path or damaging counter tops, floors, or walls.

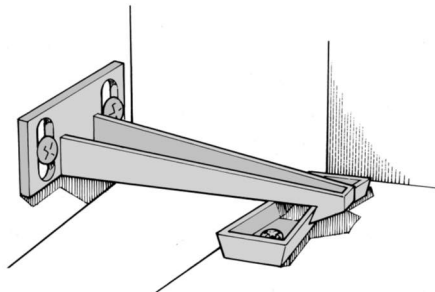
Securing Kitchen Cabinets:

To prevent cabinet doors from flying open, install one of the following types of latches:

- A. Hook and eye - inexpensive; you may not close it every time.
- B. Standard latch - mounts to the front of the door; you may not close it every time.
- C. Standard latch - closes automatically; mounts to the front of the door.
- D. Push latches - mounts inside the door; holds the door firmly shut; opens by being gently pushed inward.



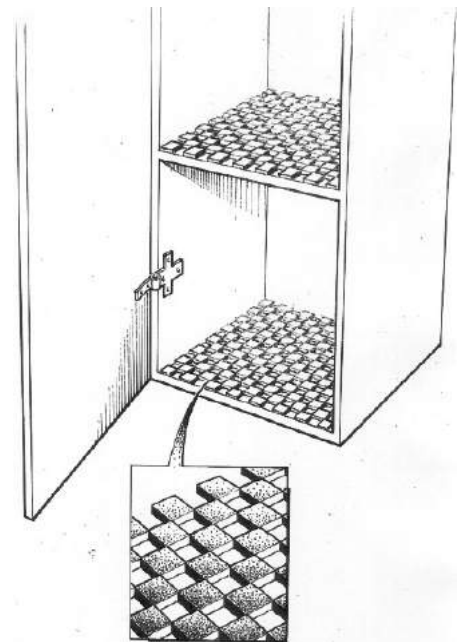
- E. Child-proof - inexpensive; closes automatically; require an extra action when you open the door; takes some getting used to.



Securing Cabinet Contents:

The contents of cabinets may shift and break in the movement of an earthquake. To help prevent this movement, line your cabinets with rubberized shelf mats. This typically is sold in rolls or pre-cut squares at hardware and variety stores. It is also available at recreational vehicle or boating equipment supply stores.

To **protect stacked china plates**, place a square of this rubberized matting between each plate in the stack.



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