



Earthquake: How to Prepare Your Home

Introduction

The time to prepare for earthquakes is now!

Take actions on the Before the Earthquake Checklist (below) as soon as you can. Make copies of the During the Earthquake Checklist (below) and post them by your house and garage exits and in your cars.

Before the Earthquake

- Identify safe spots in each room of your home
 - ⇒ sturdy tables
 - ⇒ desks
 - ⇒ interior walls
- Know your danger spots
 - ⇒ windows
 - ⇒ mirrors
 - ⇒ hanging objects
 - ⇒ fireplaces
 - ⇒ tall, unsecured furniture
- Conduct practice drills and know the safest locations in your home
- Decide how and where your family will reunite, if separated during an earthquake
- Choose an out-of-state friend or relative to contact so family and friends know your status
- Talk to others about your plans
- Learn First Aid and CPR and put together a First Aid Kit
- Learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity in case you need to
- Check chimneys, roofs, walls, and foundations for stability
- Make sure your house is bolted to its foundation
- Secure your water heater and major appliances as well as tall, heavy furniture, hanging plants, mirrors, and picture frames
 - ⇒ visit www.earthquakecountry.org for ways to secure your home
- Keep breakables, heavy objects, and flammable or hazardous liquids in secured cabinets or on lower shelves
 - ⇒ paints

- ⇒ pest sprays
- ⇒ cleaning products

During the Earthquake, If Indoors

- Drop, Cover, Hold On!!
- Stay there
- Get under a desk or table or stand in a corner
- Stay away from windows, bookcases, file cabinets, heavy mirrors, hanging plants and other heavy objects that could fall
- Watch out for falling plaster and ceiling tiles
- Stay under cover until the shaking stops
- Hold on to your cover – if it moves, move with it

During the Earthquake, If Outdoors

- Get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls, and power lines
- If driving, pull over to the side of the road and stop
 - ⇒ avoid areas around power lines
 - ⇒ stay in your car until the shaking is over
- If in a crowded public place,
 - ⇒ do not rush for the doors
 - ⇒ crouch and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms

After the Earthquake

- Do not attempt to use the phone unless there is an immediate, life-threatening emergency
- If it is safe, check for gas and water leaks, and broken electrical wiring or sewage lines, if there is damage
 - ⇒ turn the utility off at the source
 - ⇒ immediately report gas leaks to PG&E (800) 743-5000
- Stay away from downed power lines
- Do not attempt to re-light the gas pilot, call PG&E for assistance
- If you are able to safely do so, check your building for cracks and damages including the roof, chimney, and foundation
- Turn on your portable radio for instructions and news reports
- Do not use your vehicle unless there is an emergency
- If you evacuate, leave a message at your home telling others where you can be found

- Be prepared for aftershocks – Stay calm and help others

