

ACTION CHECKLIST

Your Home Exterior

Action	Frequency	Completed	Choose Not to Do	N/A
* Replace wood roof with Class A material	One-time			
* Keep roof clean	Yearly			
* Make sure there is fire-resistant ventilation at ridge and eaves	One-time			
* Install gutter guard	One-time			
* Insert fire-resistant foundation vents	One-time			
* Keep crawl space area free from debris	Yearly			
* Make sure siding has 6 inch clearance from the ground (can include concrete sidewalk)	One-time			
* Caulk joints well under eaves	One-time			
* Add closed soffit, if applicable	One-time			
* Change deck boards to Azak or Trex-class A or B fire-resistant products	One-time			
* Place hose bibb on each side of house with hose and spray nozzle attached	Fire Season			
* Review home owners insurance, get maximum coverage, inform agent of fire-safe improvements	Yearly			

Action Checklist

Garage, Fire Extinguishers, Gas Shut-Off

Action	Frequency	Completed	Choose Not to Do	N/A
* Practice opening garage door manually	Often			
* Install garage door battery back-up	One-time			
* Inspect for gaps around garage door	One-time			
* Replace door gasket (bottom of garage door) as needed to eliminate gap	One-time			
* Replace wood trim (other 3 sides of garage door) as needed to eliminate gap	One-time			
* Inspect for gaps under garage door entry	One-time			
* Replace gasket or threshold (under garage door entry) if necessary to eliminate gap	One-time			
* Repair any holes in garage walls or ceiling	One-time			
* Identify which fire extinguishers should be used for paper/wood, gas/oil, electrical	One-time			
* Replace or recharge fire extinguisher if beyond expiration or recharge date or if gage is red	One-time			
* Familiarize yourself with how to use the fire extinguisher	Often			
* Locate gas meter	One-time			
* Procure tool to manually shut-off gas	One-time			
* Learn how to use tool	One-time			
* Install auto-shutoff valve on gas meter	One-time			

Action Checklist

Defensible Space: 0-5 Feet

Action	Frequency	Completed	Choose Not to Do	N/A
* Remove cotton, jute or fiber door mats	One-time			
* Replace door mats with fire resistant mats	Always			
* Replace old indoor/outdoor carpet on patio and porch floors with fire-resistant carpet, tile or decking	Always			
* Remove firewood, lumber, and combustibles like brooms, umbrellas, pet beds, wooden planters, and gas cans/tanks from the 0-5-foot zone	One-time			
* Store combustibles inside or at least 30' away from structures unless in non-combustible container	Always			
* Remove any combustible outdoor furniture in the 0-5-foot zone	One-time			
* Use metal outdoor furniture with removable cushions	Always			
* Store outdoor furniture cushions inside during fire season	Always			
* Replace wooden fence sections, including gates, in the 0-5-foot zone, with fire-resistant materials such as metal or stone or Azek/Trex products	One-time			
* Keep all fallen leaves, shed bark and needles out of this the 0-5-foot zone, including out from under plants and out from inside plants and around storage containers	Always			
* Train landscapers to clear area after pruning and not to blow plant debris into this zone	Periodically			
* Remove bark, "gorilla hair" and other wood or plant-based mulches in the 0-5-foot zone	One-time			
* Use only fire resistant mulches (stone, pavers, brick, ground cover plants) in the 0-5-foot zone	Always			
* Remove all tree limbs that extend into the 0-5-foot zone, especially if they overhang the house, are under eaves, or are dead	Periodically			

Emergency Preparedness

Action	Frequency	Completed	Choose Not to Do	N/A
* Remove designated fire-prone plants from the 0-5-foot zone, especially if they overhang the house, are under eaves or are dead	One-time			
* Remove from the 0-5-foot zone older plants that have grown woody, especially if they overhang the house, are under eaves or are dead	Periodically			
* Plant only fire-resistant plants in the 0-5-foot zone	Always			
* Provide adequate spacing between all plants so they do not touch when grown	Always			
* Irrigate fire-resistant plants regularly, keep properly pruned and remove pruned clippings	Periodically			
* Talk to HOA and OVA about landscape rules and grants to help with removal	Periodically			
* Have Sprinklers and water hoses with spray nozzles ready to be used to protect your home	Always			

Action Checklist

Defensible Space: Beyond 5 Feet

Action	Frequency	Completed	Choose Not To Do	N/A
Prune and remove plants to prevent laddering				
Trim tree canopies to keep branches 10' from other trees				
Work with neighbors to maintain defensible space on both sides of your fence				
If fence is old/dry, replace with noncombustible material				
Remove plants using OVA's list				
Use nonflammable mulch				
Plant fire-resistant plants (see OVA's list)				
Plant shorter trees and shrubs in the 5-30-foot zone; space them carefully				
Plant tall shrubs and small trees 30-100 ft from house				
Group plants and surround them with noncombustible plants				
Maintain yard				
Rinse low/no water shrubs in summer to retain moisture				
Use Azek or Trex for raised garden beds				

YOUR HOME INTERIOR

Preparing the home interiors

- Preparedness is the key to survival in a disaster
- Individuals and families can take steps that will help minimize hazards, facilitate escape and promote survival before, during, and immediately following the event

What can we do now?

- Preserve and catalog important documents and belongings
- Safety-proof your home interior
- Prepare the house itself
- Organize necessary emergency supplies
- Create a plan
- Sign-up for emergency alerts
- Know how to shutoff utilities

Preserve and catalog important documents and belongings

- Maintain a detailed inventory of your property's contents
 - ⇒ this will help prove the value of what you own, which could speed your claim processing
 - ⇒ it will also provide documentation for tax deductions for your losses
 - ⇒ an up-to-date inventory can help you determine whether your house is insured for the correct amount
- Copy important documents either by photo, .pdf file, or on paper (**see Checklist**)
 - ⇒ Legal
 - ⇒ Financial
 - ⇒ Medical
 - ⇒ Ownership
 - ⇒ Pets
 - ⇒ Personal Records
- Catalog household belongings
 - ⇒ inventory can be done with a listing of items and with either a video or pictures
 - ⇒ make note of the make, model#, and serial# of each appliance and electronic equipment
 - ⇒ categorize clothing by type (i.e., tops, pants, etc.)
- Video
 - ⇒ each room's contents
 - ⇒ include drawers and garage
 - ⇒ do one room at a time
 - ⇒ use either your phone or camera
 - ⇒ pan the room slowly
 - ⇒ zoom in on specific items
 - ⇒ record comments on value and source of item
 - ⇒ export to digital device
 - ⇒ send to your insurance company

- Pictures
 - ⇒ make sure to have photos of all household members and pets
- Create redundancy
 - ⇒ transfer photos and videos onto thumb drive and put in go-bag and/or safety deposit box
 - ⇒ you can purchase thumb drives that are password-protected
 - ⇒ thumb drives for cell phones are also available for direct transfer from phone to drive
 - ⇒ place files in the cloud, drop box, or some other online application (remember your passwords!!)

Safety-proof your home interior

- Secure heavy objects and potential flying objects
- Prepare room by room
- Assure redundancy and back-up

Preparing the house itself

- Structural elements
- Safety-proof for an earthquake

Structural elements

- Consider having a licensed contractor check for necessary retrofits
- Anchor bolts
- Bracing
- Seismic shutoff gauge
- Sprinkler system

Anchor Bolts

- Adding anchor bolts or steel plates between your home and its foundation



Bracing

- Bracing the inside of your home's cripple wall — the short wood-stud wall between the top of the foundation wall and the first floor — with sheathing

Emergency Preparedness

- Bracing unreinforced chimneys, masonry and concrete walls and foundations



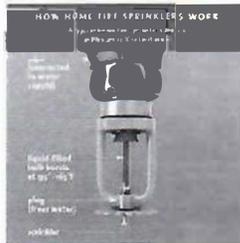
- Brace or replace masonry chimney
- Secure ceiling fans and hanging light fixtures
- Upgrade unbraced crawlspace, walls or other foundation problems

Seismic gauge

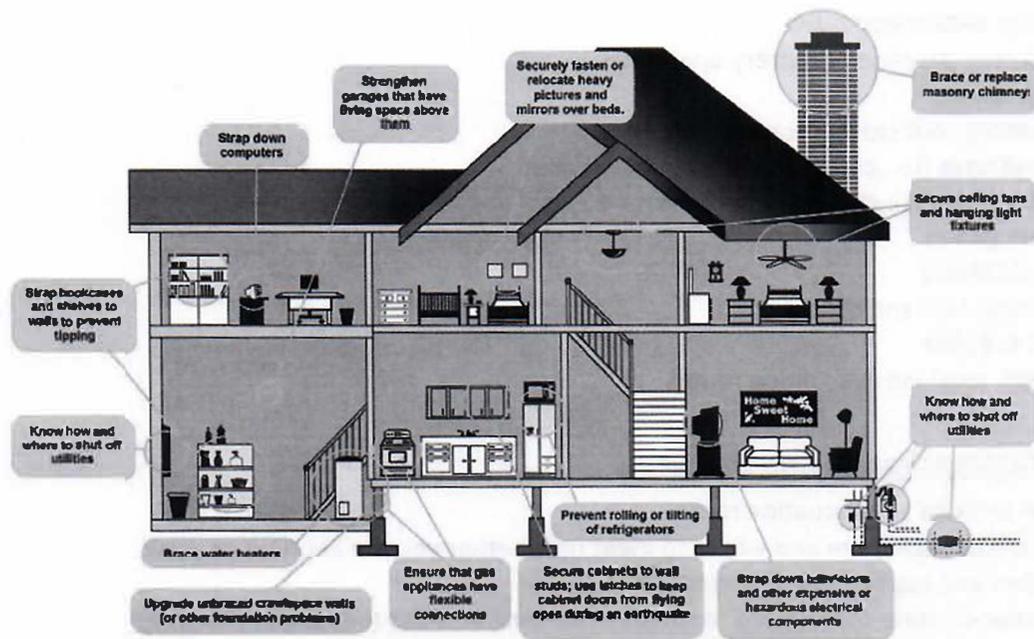
- Consider having a plumber install a seismic gauge for gas line shutoff during an earthquake

Sprinkler system

- Install a heat-activated sprinkler system for fire protection



- This design is extremely simple, effective, and reliable.
- There are no computers, electricity, or other complex triggers involved
- heat causes a mechanical response.
- heat-activated design avoids false alarms
- limits the deployment of sprinklers to only the room or rooms that are on fire



Safety-proof house for an earthquake

- Anchor bookcases and filing cabinets to wall with permanent brackets or removable straps
- Strap down expensive electronic equipment such as computers and televisions
- Secure ceiling fans and hanging light fixtures (if not already done above the ceiling)
- Securely fasten or relocate heavy pictures over the bed
 - ⇒ replace glass in frame over bed with plexiglass for safety
 - ⇒ use multiple picture hanging hooks or cleat system for large, heavy pieces
- **Wall cabinets**
 - ⇒ secure to wall studs (if not already done)
 - ⇒ install latches on drawers and cabinet doors to keep contents from spilling out
 - ⇒ install ledge barriers on lower shelves
 - ⇒ place heavy items on lower shelves
 - ⇒ secure large heavy items and breakables directly to shelves (museum putty or quake wax)
- Anchor large appliances to walls using safety cables or straps
- Lock the roller wheels of any large appliances or furniture
- Have a solid door with self-closing hinges between garage and house
- Apply safety film to large windows and sliding glass doors (most glass now is safety glass)
- See **Checklist** for room by room listing of things to secure

Organize necessary emergency supplies

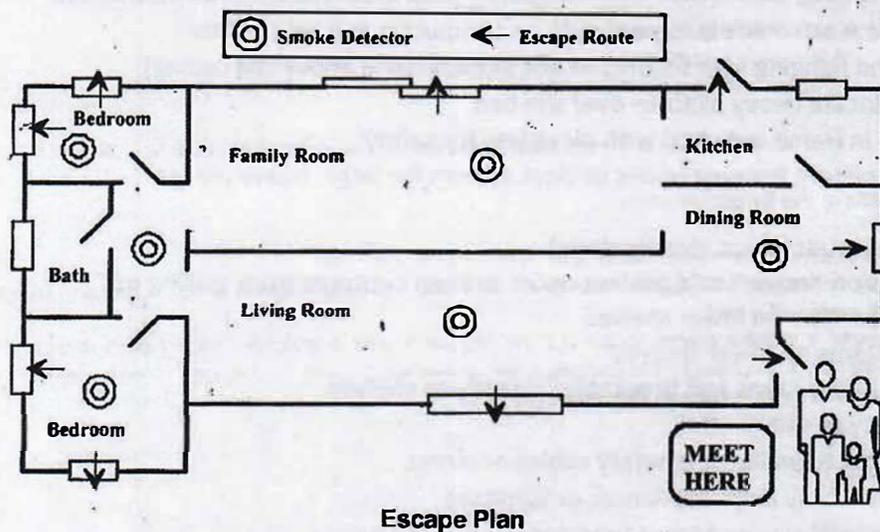
- Know what you need on hand and what to collect and store
- Identify a storage location
- This is a short list of some of the items that should go in your emergency kit. (See the handouts and Checklists from Preparing Emergency Kits for a complete list)
 - ⇒ water
 - ⇒ food
 - ⇒ flashlights, battery operated

- ⇒ radio, battery-operated
- ⇒ lanterns, propane or battery operated
- ⇒ first-aid kit
- ⇒ camping cook stove, propane or butane
- ⇒ small tools (i.e., crescent wrench, utility knife)
- ⇒ extra clothes (including underwear)
- ⇒ work gloves
- ⇒ medications
- ⇒ money, cash and checks
- ⇒ pet supplies
- ⇒ maps, local and evacuation routes

Create a plan: communication and practice

- Have a clear path for an evacuation route
- Know how to exit each room and where to meet up whether you are at home or away
- Collect: gather and copy contact information
- Identify: an out-of-state contact and methods of keeping in touch (i.e., text, WhatsApp)
- Share: give this info to household and family/friends
- Practice & Review: update, practice your plan every year or when any information changes

An example of an escape plan is shown in the figure that follows.



Sample family escape plan with arrows showing an escape route from every room in the home and a family meeting place outside the home.

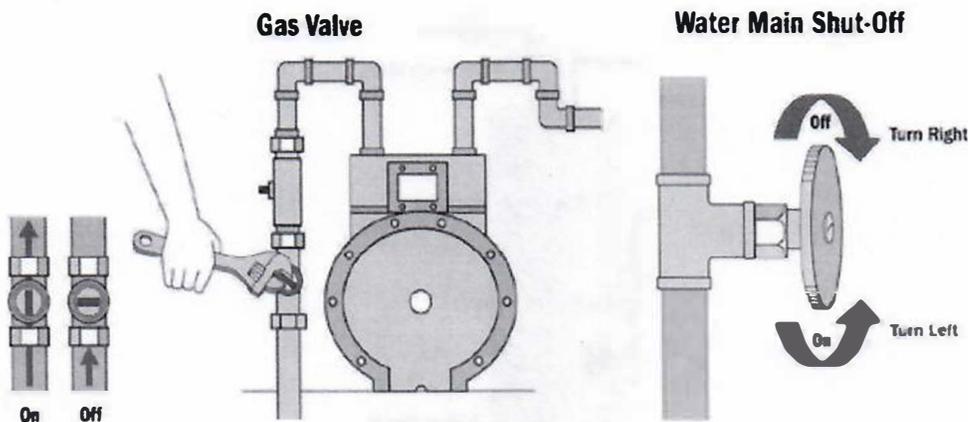
- If you need help creating a Family Emergency Communication Plan, here's a link to FEMA's version: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1440449346150-1ff18127345615d8b7e1effb4752b668/Family_Comm_Plan_508_20150820.pdf

Sign Up for emergency alerts

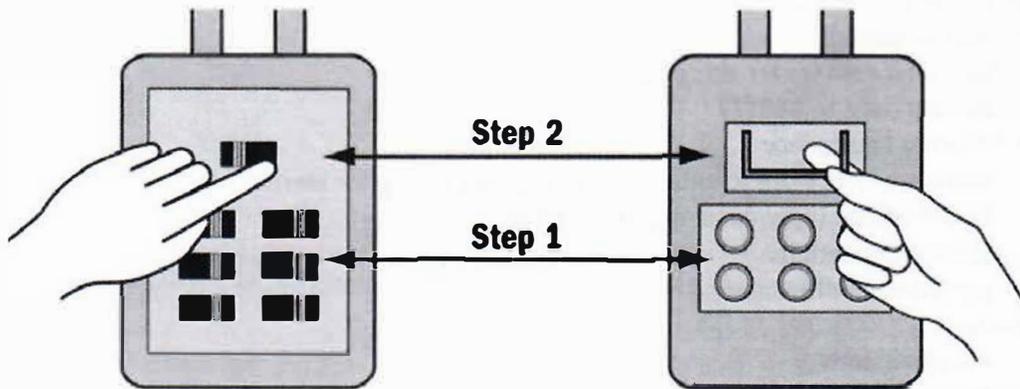
- Nixl (to receive alerts)
 - ⇒ local.nixl.com (enter zip code)
 - ⇒ text zip code to **888777**
- Sonoma County Emergency
 - ⇒ socoemergency.org (create an account, then sign up for alerts)
 - ⇒ **CodeRed** app (download app onto cell phone)
- PG&E Shutoff Notifications
 - ⇒ pge.com/wildfiresafety
- Air quality
 - ⇒ **Purpleair.com**
 - ⇒ **AirNow** app
- Local Sonoma County radio stations
 - ⇒ KZST – 100.1 FM
 - ⇒ KRSO – 1350 AM / 103.5 FM

Know how to shutoff utilities

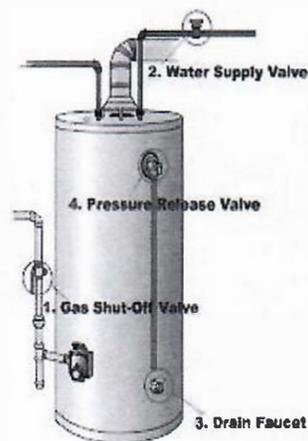
- Know where the power shut-offs are for your Gas, Water and Electric
- Only turn-off the gas if there is a leak or if you are instructed to do so by the utility company or authorities
- You can turn off the gas at specific gas appliances
- You may also learn to shut-off the water at your water heater to preserve water for home
- Also find the main water valve at the front edge of property



- Have wrench stored where it will be immediately available
- Know how to turn off gas appliances
- Label valves and pipes for quick identification
- Turning off the electricity may be warranted in high winds, when power lines are down, or you have been instructed to do so by authorities
- Know where the power shutoffs for electric appliances are
- Go to the circuit breaker: switch off smaller breakers first, then pull the main switch or breaker



- Familiarize yourself with your specific water heater and how to possibly use the 30-60 gallons of water stored there
 - ⇒ turn gas valve control to off / switch-off circuit breaker
 - ⇒ shut off the water supply
 - ⇒ attach hose to drain valve (get a hose that is safe for drinking)
 - ⇒ open a hot water faucet in the house
 - ⇒ open drain valve for water, discard the first amounts of water if you see water sediment buildup



Action Checklist

Your Home Interior: Documents

Action	Completed	Choose Not To Do	N/A
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Personal Records

Marriage certificate
Divorce decree
Birth certificate (s)
Adoptions
Death certificate(s)

Personal ID Documents

Social Security card
Driver's license
Passport
Military ID
Green Card

Pet Information

Medical and Vaccination records
Current photos
ID chip numbers / name of chip company
Proof of ownership
Vet contacts
Insurance contacts / proof of insurance
ID tags

Insurance Policy Info (policy# and phone#)

Homeowners
Renters
Earthquake
Flood
Auto
Life
Long-term care
Health & disability
Appraisals

Real Estate

Deeds of trust

Action	Completed	Choose Not To Do	N/A
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Mortgage 2-pg Settlement Statement from Title Co
 Lease or rental agreement
 Home Equity line of credit (HELOC)
 Architectural drawings

Auto or RV

Purchase or lease agreement
 Registration and titles
 Loan documents
 VIN number

Estate Planning

Wills
 Trusts
 Funeral arrangements
 Financial Powers of Attorney
 Medical Powers of Attorney
 Attorney names and phone#'s

Financial Records

Investments
 Brokerage & retirement accounts
 Financial advisor contact info
 Bank account numbers and contacts
 Credit card numbers and contacts
 Credit union info
 Debit card numbers

Tax Statements

1st 2 pages of last year's federal and state tax returns
 Property tax
 Vehicle tax

Health Insurance Cards / Information

Dental
 Medicare & Supplemental

Action	Choose		
	Completed	Not To Do	N/A
VA health benefits			
Disability benefits			

Medical

- List of prescription medications, including dosage
- List of over-the-counter meds, including dosage
- Immunizations
- Allergies
- Medical equipment (i.e., CPAP)
- Implanted devices, names/ids (i.e., replacements, heart stents)
- Pharmacy information
- Emergency Numbers
- Friends / family
- Employer/Supervisor
- Homeowners Association
- Social Service Providers
- Houses of worship
- Caregiver agency contact / service agreement
- Inventory Home
 - Photograph or video each room, including garage
 - date/year of purchase
 - make, model & serial number of all appliances
 - make, model & serial number of electronic equipment
 - report the # of clothes items by type (i.e., tops)
 - make an annual home inventory for new purchases
 - store inventory in safe deposit box, cloud, or external drive

Misc

- Update personal address book
- Know where the key to the safe deposit box is
- List of passwords and usernames for online accounts
- Recent photos of household members
- Utilities account and contact info
- Keep vital records in a safe place
- Store hard copies in waterproof/fireproof box or safe deposit box

Action	Choose		
	Completed	Not To Do	N/A
Secure electronic copies with strong passwords and save them on a thumb drive or external hard drive in waterproof/fireproof box			
Give copies to trusted families/friends			
If you have to leave any animals behind, leave duplicate documentation about the animals for responders			

Any of these items which are not in a safety deposit box or duplicated in the cloud, can be kept together for quick retrieval in an emergency

Action Checklist

Your Home Interior: Rooms

Action	Completed	Choose Not To Do	N/A
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Household Safety

Learn how to use fire extinguisher

Use surge protectors on all electronic devices (consider GFI outlets)

Replace batteries in smoke alarms and CO2 detectors annually (select time of year you will remember like Christmas or New Year's)

Consider having a plumber install a seismic gauge for gas line
Have a motion detector nightlight plugged into electrical unit

Have a backup battery for wireless phones & laptops/tablets
For landlines, have either a battery backup for phone or have an old-fashioned direct plug-in phone (i.e., princess phone)

Back-up computers regularly in the cloud and on an external hard drive

Back-up cell phones regularly in the cloud and keep phones charged

Conserve your mobile phone battery by:

- reducing brightness of screen
- placing phone in airplane mode
- closing apps

Make sure all stoves and ovens are turned off before leaving the house

Store combustible items at least 3 feet away from anything that gets hot

Set a timer to remind you to check on the oven if in use

Install smoke detectors between living and sleep areas

Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries annually

Replace electrical cords that have loose connections or are frayed

Keep charged batteries, car phone charger & solar charger available for backup power for mobile, caption and amplified phones

Make evacuation plans

Action	Choose		
	Completed	Not To Do	N/A
Passports, cash, checkbooks, wallet, and bills to pay should be located in convenient place to grab			
Place Go-Bag in a convenient place			

Secure Home and Breakables

- Apply safety film to window and glass doors, if needed
- Securely fasten heavy pictures, mirrors, artwork, & all wall items
- Affix breakable shelf items using museum putty or quake wax
- Place heavy objects on floor or lower shelves
- Secure cabinets to wall studs, if not already done
- Secure cabinet doors with locking systems / optional
- Place most valuable breakables on lowest shelves
- Move heavy or unstable objects away from doors and escape routes
- Secure computers and TV's with special straps
- Secure ceiling fans and hanging light fixtures

Kitchen

- Keep a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen
- Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stove-top grease fires
- Make sure electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads
- Don't leave a stove running unattended

Living Room

- Install a screen in front of fireplace or wood stove
- Store the ashes from your fireplace in a metal container & dispose when cool
- Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year
- Make sure chimney shaft is closed during summer months

Bedroom

- Disconnect appliances, such as, curling irons & hair dryers / store in a cool place
- Keep towels away from the wall and floor heaters

Action**Completed****Choose
Not To Do****N/A**

Mount a working fire extinguisher

Have tools, such as, a shovel, hoe, rake & bucket ready for use

Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas & garage

Dispose of oily rags in underwriters laboratories approved metal containers

Store All Combustibles Away From Ignition Sources (Water Heaters)

Are there large openings in the walls, such as, a garage door, that should be better braced

Strap water heater to the wall

Make sure your back-up battery charged garage door is in working order

Store flammable material in well-marked, unbreakable containers in a low cabinet (safely dispose of any hazardous material no longer needed)

Place pet carrier in convenient location

Car

Always keep gas tank $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ full (or full charge for electric cars)

Place emergency supplies in trunk of car (i.e., extra mask)

Keep your cell phone charger in your car

Place a flashlight in your glove compartment

Gather water & food for (3) three days with a system to replace

Preparing Emergency Kits

General Introduction

- There are a myriad of websites, products and terminology used in conjunction with this topic
- The team chose to focus on the recommendations from <https://thewirecutter.com>
 - ⇒ a NY Times company
 - ⇒ their research and evaluations come from analyzing info from 30 different sites such as Homeland Security's [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov), FEMA, and the [American Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org)
 - ⇒ their recommendations seemed the most reliable

Definitions

- Emergency Kit is an umbrella term that includes both Go-Bags and Sheltering-in-Place kits
- Go-Bags are for getting from Point A to Point B, presumably a comfy hotel, friend's home or some other place where you'll have access to all the comforts of home
 - ⇒ set of essential 3-day emergency supplies
 - ⇒ available for a quick evacuation
 - ⇒ must be pre-prepared, stored in home and/or car, and ready to grab at any moment
 - ⇒ use a backpack or other hands-free bag - or a backpack on wheels
 - ⇒ tag your bag with your name and address
 - ⇒ pack as lightly as possible (as you may have to evacuate on foot)
- Shelter-In-Place supplies will help you manage at home for a longer period of time following a disaster that knocks out utility services or cuts off outside resources to your area
 - ⇒ can be stored in a storage shed, galvanized garbage can, a bucket with a tight-fitting lid, or even an "Emergency Supplies Storage Container" (65 gallon \$129 from <https://www.emergencykits.com/emergency-kits>)

Emergency Kits

- When considering the type of supplies and where to store them, take into account your:
 - ⇒ physical location
 - ⇒ climate
 - ⇒ survival skills
 - ⇒ personal comfort level
- You can buy pre-assembled emergency kits or build your own

Pre-Assembled Kits

- These kits are
 - ⇒ easy, one-stop shopping
 - ⇒ relatively low cost (many under \$200)
 - ⇒ but, for the most part, they offer low-quality items, zero room for

customization, and incomplete selections of gear

- Wirecutter found two kits in the higher price range (over \$300) that looked promising; both filled with some reputable, brand-name gear that covers all of the essentials
 - ⇒ **Uncharted Supply Emergency Survival Backpack - SEVENTY2** | 50L, 35-Piece Emergency Kit with Preparedness Gear, Food, Matches, Radio, Tools - Bug Out Bag for Camping, Hiking, Earthquakes, Hurricanes. Cost \$350
 - ⇒ **Echo-Sigma Get Home Bag**
- Wirecutter recommends building your own emergency kits as opposed to pre-packaged ones to ensure a higher quality of materials and appropriate items for your specific needs
 - ⇒ if you're in an area prone to wildfires, include more respiratory masks
 - ⇒ If you're in a flood zone, include additional water-purification tablets

Build Your Own Kits

- Starting from scratch, you can expect to invest \$300 to \$500 or more, depending on your needs
- But you may already own most of the items on the list, things such as a backpack, flashlights, hand sanitizer, garbage bags, and some tools
- Also, you can build your bag slowly, over time, to lessen the impact on your monthly budget.

Storage Locations & Solutions

Go-Bags

- Home
 - ⇒ have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly
 - ⇒ keep it in an easy-to-reach location, like an entry-hall closet or under the bed
 - ⇒ make sure all family members know where the kit is kept
- Work
 - ⇒ be prepared to shelter at work for at least 24 hours
 - ⇒ your work kit should include food, water and other necessities like medicines, as well as comfortable walking shoes
- Vehicle
 - ⇒ In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies **in your car**
- Type
 - ⇒ best if the Go-Bag is on wheels because of the weight
 - ⇒ hands-free backpack is also important

Shelter-in-Place kit

- Keep it in an easy-to-reach, accessible location
- Pick a place around your home that is safe and secure and would likely survive a big earthquake
- It's more practical to have your storage bin on wheels
 - ⇒ a good option is to keep a dolly cart on hand
- Recommended
 - ⇒ **Emergency Supplies Storage Container (65 gallon)** by EmergencyKits.com \$129;
 - ⇒ any durable, weatherproof outdoor storage shed

Maintaining Your Kits

- After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:
 - ⇒ replace expired items as needed
 - ⇒ re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change

Water

- “You can never have enough water when a disaster happens”
- The amount of water differs for Go-Bags vs Sheltering-in-Place
- FEMA recommends a three-day supply—a gallon per person per day
 - ⇒ that’s generally enough to cover drinking water and basic hygiene needs
- Given the relative ease of storing water, stockpiling a 10- to 14-day supply is a reasonable goal if you live in an earthquake zone like we do
- A Go-Bag is used for getting from Point A to Point B so a large amount of water isn’t required
- Water can be obtained from
 - ⇒ your home water heater which contains 32 gallons of potable water
 - ⇒ the water in your toilet tank, which is replaced after each flush, is also generally safe to drink
 - ⇒ ice cubes
 - ⇒ ponds
 - ⇒ rivers
 - ⇒ rainwater
 - ⇒ wells
 - ⇒ swimming pools (for hygiene only)

STORAGE

- Ideally you should store your water in a cool, shaded location
- If it’s on concrete that gets hot, place it on a platform before filling
- Some people don’t want store in a garage because there might be a concern of chemicals
- Other places to store are
 - ⇒ in the house in a closet, where it is cooler
 - ⇒ outside their house

CONTAINERS

- Before you buy any water storage containers, think about the weight of it when full of water, and how much you can lug around
 - ⇒ 1 pint of water weighs 1 pound
 - ⇒ 1 gallon = 8 lbs
 - ⇒ 5 gallons = 42 lbs
 - ⇒ 7 gallons = 58 lbs

For Sheltering in Place

- bottled water has a 2-year shelf life (the plastic can break down)
- a better option would be to get a dedicated container
- Rigid blue/green/beige polyethylene water containers perform better for storage than opaque collapsible ones
 - ⇒ offer more durability

- ⇒ are leak resistant
- ⇒ prevent bacterial growth
- ⇒ one of the cheapest ways to store water is the **4 or 7-gallon Reliance Aqua-Tainer**
- **Scepter Military Water Cans** - 2.5 & 5 gallons.
 - ⇒ rated on one web site as the best overall
 - ⇒ cheaper to buy from Bottom Line Military Sales web site (then you'll know you're getting the true product)
- There are flat ones, some more square, some containers are not designed to be stacked
 - ⇒ a 2-1/2 gallon container may be a more user friendly option
- 55-Gallon Water Storage Barrel
 - ⇒ may be the best pick for more than two people
 - ⇒ a large drum made of food-grade plastic allows you to store an entire family's supply of water for five years before refreshing
 - ⇒ it's more economical and ultimately more convenient
- Options
 - ⇒ pump or flexible hose for pouring

For a Go-Bag

- Portable Pouches - 4-1/4 oz. or 1/2 cup
 - ⇒ the pouches are tough, flexible, and slim enough that you can easily pack them around your other emergency items in a Go-bag
 - ⇒ they don't expire for five years
- You could also grab one of your stored bottles of water to put in the trunk
- Collapsible water bottles
 - ⇒ it's good to have a collapsible water bottle or two
 - ⇒ this kind of bottle weighs almost nothing and takes up less space as it empties
 - ⇒ one of the bottles should be metal, for durability.

Sanitize your Containers

- Containers may need to be cleaned and sanitized before using to safely store water
- Here's how:
 - ⇒ clean and rinse the container
 - ⇒ add 1 Tablespoon household unscented liquid bleach to 1 Quart water
 - ⇒ pour into clean storage container
 - ⇒ cover
 - ⇒ shake well
 - ⇒ let sit 30 seconds
 - ⇒ pour out
 - ⇒ air dry
 - ⇒ add clean water into sanitized container

- If you do abide by sanitary conditions, you don't need to treat tap water before storing
- If you're concerned about contamination you can use regular household bleach or a water purification tablet to treat your water when you're ready to use it

Rotate Water

- There are different recommendations for how often to rotate
 - ⇒ anywhere from every few months, to every year to 5 years to never
- You can store water in the jug for a year before refreshing it if you
 - ⇒ wash your hands vigorously before filling the food grade jug (to avoid contaminating the water with bacteria)
 - ⇒ keep it sealed

Water Purification

- Use Chlorine Dioxide for water treatment as it kills everything
- Recommended brands:
 - ⇒ Potable Aqua Chlorine Dioxide Water Purification Tablets
 - ⇒ Katadyn Micropur MP1 Purification Tablets
 - ⇒ Aquamira Water Treatment
- Using water treatment will keep your water safe for 5 years
- And if any concerns about your drinking water, you can use one of these products.
- In tablet form
 - ⇒ each tablet treats 1-2 liters of water (Check the directions)
 - ⇒ tablets require a 4-hour treatment time for its full effectiveness
 - ⇒ best to put in Go-Bag
- In liquid form
 - ⇒ the **Aquamira Chlorine Dioxide Water Treatment** treats up to 30 gallons
 - ⇒ wait 1/2 hour
- Another water purification method is
 - ⇒ boiling water is the single best way to kill all pathogens
 - ⇒ bring water to a **rolling** boil for a full minute
 - ⇒ drawbacks: need fuel & lots of water
- Cloudy water should be filtered before boiling
 - ⇒ use coffee filters, paper towels, or cheesecloth in a funnel
- Add two drops of household bleach per gallon to maintain water quality while in storage
 - ⇒ mix thoroughly and let stand for at least 60 minutes before drinking
- A water filter is an alternative to water treatment tablets or liquids
- If you're in a situation where waterborne viruses are a possibility—say, where there was recent flooding and a backing up of the sewage systems—
 - ⇒ use purification tablets in conjunction with a filter
 - ⇒ this approach (or boiling) is the only way to be confident that all waterborne viruses are destroyed
- Cost of various filters range from about \$20 to \$100.
 - ⇒ least expensive is Sawyer (www.sawyer.com)

- Backpacker Magazine recommends
 - ⇒ MSR AutoFlow XL
 - ⇒ a filter that can handle a lot of people and a lot of abuse
 - ⇒ pairs a hollow-fiber, 0.2-micron filter with a 10-liter reservoir