



Relocate..Remove..Re-anchor..Beware

INSIDE YOUR HOME

	Yes	No
Are there windows/skylights that need protective shatter resistant film? (<i>Locate beds away from windows.</i>)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there mirrors or heavy pictures over beds, couches, or chairs that can be relocated or anchored securely with closed hooks or safety hangers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is tall furniture, which could fall on beds, couches, or chairs, securely lag-screwed to wall studs? (<i>Anything over 3 feet in height could be a problem.</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could toppled furniture block doorway exits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are heavy, breakable, or valuable objects stored on lower shelves and lighter objects on higher shelves?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are TVs, computers, printers, telephones, or other potential projectiles secured with Velcro strips or nonslip pads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are hanging plants secured or can they be moved to a safer location?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are cabinet doors fitted with secure latches and kept closed when not being used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there kitchen appliances that can be secured? (<i>Toasters, coffee pots, etc. cannot be secured with Velcro pads because of heat.</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is space beneath desks and tables kept clear and readily accessible as a place of refuge during an earthquake?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there gas appliances (<i>i.e. stove</i>) which could be secured to prevent a gas line rupture?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the furnace or boiler firmly secured to the adjacent structure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are toxic materials safely stored in non-breakable containers? (<i>Keep in safe well-ventilated storage away from heat sources, emergency water and out of reach of children and pets.</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

	Yes	No
Are there tall trees close enough to hit the house if they fall?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there overhead wires near your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there stream banks near your home that may be unstable after an earthquake?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you taken outside hazards into consideration for your evacuation route?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

You need to be aware of outside hazards even if you cannot do anything about them.

It is important that all the structural elements of your home move together in an earthquake. The diagram on the back of this checklist illustrates some steps that can be taken to safeguard your home against earthquake damage.

Many things affect how your home will survive an earthquake. These include the type of soil your home sits on – loose or clay soils OR stiff soils or bedrock. It may be possible to reinforce foundations for homes in poor soil. Stiff soil or bedrock is best because much less vibration is transferred through the foundation to the structure above.

Other factors include the age, structural form, size and design of the building and the strength, location, and duration of the quake and the kinds of shock waves it generates.

By reinforcing the foundation, floors, walls, and roof and by securing the contents of your home, you can improve its ability to withstand lateral and vertical forces.

You can complete some steps yourself. For others you may need the expertise of skilled professionals.

- If your house is supported on slender posts or is partially cantilevered, make sure posts are braced and anchored to solid ground.
- Consider flexible pipe connections for natural gas appliances. The semi-flexible material will prevent the line from rupturing. Should be installed by a professional.

YOUR FOUNDATION

Look for the heads of anchor bolts that fasten the sill plate (the wood board that sits directly on top of the foundation) securely to the foundation. See figure below. You should be able to see the large nuts, washers and anchor bolts installed every 4 to 6 feet along the sill plate (or bent steel plates) connecting the foundation to the building

If your building is fully finished on the inside you won't be able to see this. You may be able to see it in an unfinished basement, a garage or a parkade.

You should also ensure that the stud walls or floor joists are well secured to the top of the sill plate.

