

Earthquake Damage Prevention From Enservio



Prepare Your Home

- Install strong latches on cabinets and cupboards.
- Store breakable items in cabinets with latches.
- Bolt tall furniture (shelves, bookcases, china cabinets) to wall studs.
- Fasten shelves to the walls and keep heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Hang heavy items away from beds and couches or anywhere a person may sit.
- Lighting fixtures should be braced to the ceiling's structural supports.
- Make repairs to any cracks in your ceiling or foundation.
- Restrain appliances securely, especially if stored on a counter or tabletop.
- Strap your water heater to wall studs.
- Use flexible connections on gas lines.
- Make sure you have insurance that covers earthquakes - this is not standard coverage.

To Avoid a Fire

- Have gas connections checked for leaks.
- Use flexible connections on gas lines.
- Brace propane tanks and gas cylinders.
- Store chemicals or flammable products in cabinets with latches.

During an Earthquake

- Take cover under a sturdy table or in a corner away from windows and exterior doors and walls.
- Keep away from furniture that may fall.
- Many earthquake related injuries occur when people exit a home/building and get struck by falling debris.

Aftershock

- After an earthquake there is an aftershock which is a less violent, but equally dangerous earthquake. These have potential for danger as structures were previously weakened by the main earthquake.

Returning to Home

- Stay away from damaged areas until authorities have said it is okay to return.
- Shut off the gas if you smell it or think it has been leaking.
- Put out any small fires using a fire extinguisher.
- Clean up any spilled medicine, bleach, gasoline, or other flammables.

Damages to Look For

The following damages are common to find after earthquakes. If you notice any of these damages, have them fixed by an appropriate professional immediately.

- Chimney Cracks
- Gas Line Leaks
- Broken or Frayed Wires
- Broken Water Pipes

According to FEMA, there are 39 states in America that are at risk for earthquakes.