

*Easy ways
to quake safe
your home.*

MISSION

To build **CAREERS** worth having,
BUSINESSES worth owning,
LIVES worth living,
EXPERIENCES worth giving,
and **LEGACIES** worth leaving.



GROWTH
PRODUCTIVITY
PROFITABILITY
CULTURE

ORNAMENTS & SMALL OBJECTS

Even small shakes can damage or break ornaments and other objects. They can become flying weapons in bigger jolts, and leave a mess of dangerous glass and broken crockery. Making them more secure is easy.

Plastic putty

Plastic putties such as Blu Tack and special quake putties can be effective in holding down ornaments, glassware and similar objects. Plastic putty is available from many supermarkets, stationery and hardware stores. Some art and antique galleries may have special quake putties, gels or waxes.

Ensure the bottom surface of the object and the surface it is to sit on are clean. Roll pieces of putty into balls of equal size – the amount you need to use depends on the size, shape and weight of the object. One bigger piece may be enough for small objects; others may require three or four smaller pieces. Push on to bottom of object. Press the item down firmly, and gently twist back and forth a few times to get it to grip. To remove the object, hold at the base and top and twist slightly while gently pulling from its position.

After an earthquake your home may be a mess, you could be without a water supply, and someone in your household could be injured. Fortunately there are things you can do to help prevent damage and injury from earthquakes. This guide shows you easy ways to quake safe your home.

Non-slip mats

Non-slip mats are good for preventing squat but heavy objects, or objects with a low centre of gravity, from sliding.

Non-slip mats, e.g. Magic Grip, are available in some homeware stores and come in a variety of colours to match many decors.

Simply cut a piece of mat to fit under the object. Depending on the type of base, the mat can sometimes be slightly smaller than the object, allowing the mat to be hidden.



PICTURES & MIRRORS

Anything hanging on a conventional picture hook or nail is likely to come off, even in a moderate earthquake. The glass on pictures and mirrors can shatter, creating a hazard. Securing hanging items is one of the easiest things you can do.



Close hooks

Push hooks closed after hanging pictures or mirrors. Single-nail conventional picture hooks are fine for light pictures as long as the nail has been hammered into something solid like a wall stud.

Anything a little heavier will need a two- or three-nail picture hook, or possibly several hooks, and very heavy pictures or mirrors may need something even stronger. Also, don't forget to use strong cord, not light string.

Once you have nailed the hook into place, hang the picture and then pull it out so you can get your hand behind it and push the hook closed.



TALL FURNITURE

The taller something is, the more easily it will start rocking and topple, particularly if it is top-heavy. Falling furniture can be dangerous and destructive. Securing it to the wall is usually straightforward.

Brackets

Wall units, bookcases and other tall furniture should be secured to wall studs. The easiest way is to use metal brackets, which can be found in most hardware stores.

Standard steel brackets (65mm) should be more than adequate.

If you would like the brackets hidden as much as possible, attach them as two upside down "Ls". Start by marking on the wall where the top of the furniture comes to and then move it away from the wall. Find where the studs are in the wall (by tapping lightly) and then use 12 gauge screws about 63mm long to screw the brackets into place before moving the furniture back. Screw the other arm of the brackets down onto the furniture with eight gauge screws of 15-25mm length.

Alternative: Attach the brackets the opposite way – as two "Ls".

Storing heavy objects

Store heavy and/or fragile objects on lower shelves or in low closed cabinets.



HOT WATER CYLINDERS & WATER SUPPLY

Even small shakes can cause hot water cylinders to rock enough to crack pipes, often causing expensive and messy water damage. In large quakes, the cylinder can rock on its base or slide sideways, with hot water becoming a hazard. Both can deprive you of your largest source of drinking water after a disaster, as well as causing water damage. Securing a hot water cylinder is surprisingly easy.

The strap method

The best method of securing the cylinder is to use wooden blocks and a metal strap. The straps can be bought as part of a special kit from plumbing supply or hardware stores, or you can buy a length of perforated strapping (approximately 25mm wide x 1mm thick).

Screw or nail timber blocks to the floor or shelving (make sure shelf is fastened).

Cut timber blocks to size so they fit snugly between the top of the cylinder and walls and glue them into place. Ensure blocks are against wall framing.

Screw two 8mm screw hooks into studs on either side at the same level as the blocks.

Attach a 6mm turnbuckle to one hook and the end of the strap.

Cut the strap to the length required, connect it to the other hook and use turnbuckle to make it tight.

Emergency water supply

How to get water out of the hot water cylinder in an emergency:

Shut water supply off at the "toby" i.e. the tap or valve on the water supply pipe to the house, to stop dirty water (from any broken street pipes) flowing back into your house.

If any pipeline between the toby and your house is broken you should clamp the pipe or improvise in some way. Turn off the electricity before you start draining. Open the drain valve at the bottom of the cylinder and collect from the drainage point outside and near the cylinder.



APPLIANCES

Most homes have a wide range of appliances – from microwaves to TVs and computers. These can slide off benches and topple from cabinets, becoming hazards both during and after an earthquake.

Small appliances

Non-slip mats are good under smaller, squat appliances like microwaves and DVD players, where most of the weight is low down (see ‘Ornaments & small objects’). Rubber “cups” that sit under the feet of an appliance or self-adhesive Velcro pads can also be effective. Both are available from many appliance and hardware stores.

Built-in appliances and items in wall units can be secured with wood battens or aluminium moulding or trim screwed to the edge of shelves to create a lip of at least 15mm in height.

Many appliances such as microwaves can be fastened with proprietary restraint straps available from specialist safety or hardware stores.

Televisions

Modern TVs are often tall and narrow, and can be prone to toppling forward. If the TV is on a base or stand, this can be fastened using any number of strap restraints or similar products, which are available from specialist safety or hardware stores.

Using a non-slip rubber mat or rubber feet can also prevent movement but these should be used in conjunction with strap restraints.



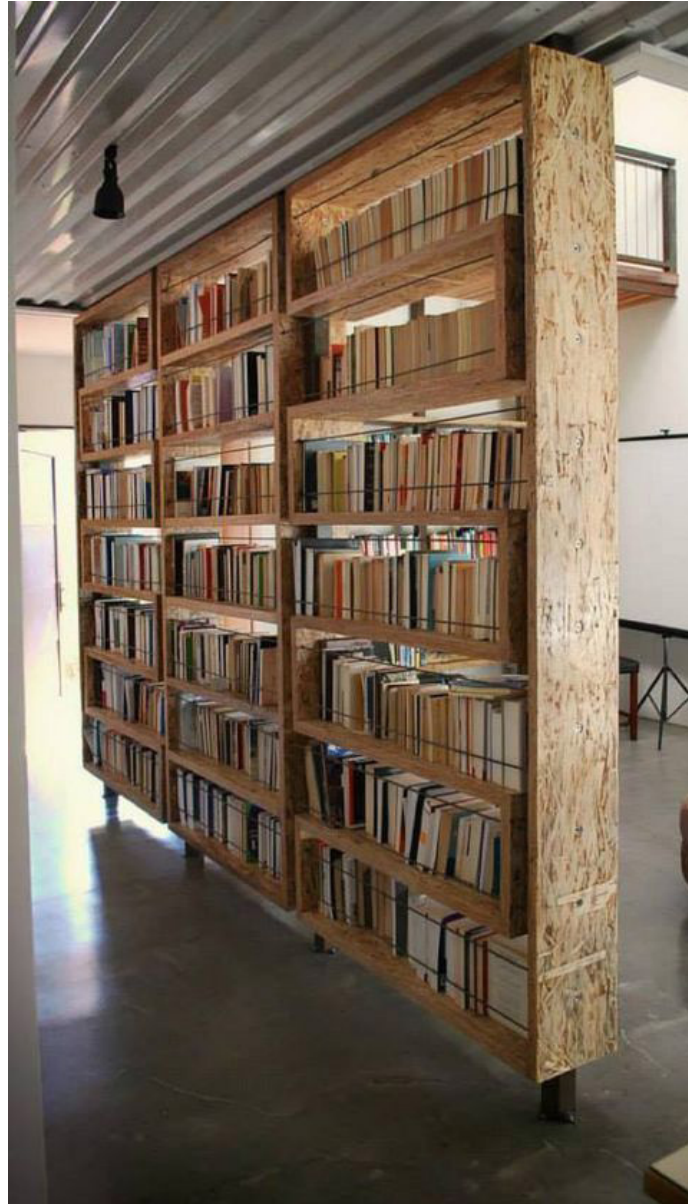
BOOKSHELVES & LATCHES

Bookshelf wires

Cord, nylon or curtain wire can be strung in front of books etc on a shelf to lessen the chances of them falling or flying off in a shake.

Positive-catching latches

Use positive-catching latches on cupboard doors and drawers. Make sure these latches aren't magnetic, as they will not hold during a quake. Child-proof latches with a mechanical action are best.



FLEXIBLE FITTINGS & LOG BURNERS

Flexible fittings

Have flexible gas and plumbing fittings installed (by a tradesperson). Flexible fittings between your house and the ground are particularly beneficial in an earthquake, as they allow for the extra movement and prevent breaks and leakages.



Gas bottles

Make sure you know where your emergency cut-off switches for gas, power and water are. The chain should be near the top if the bottom of the bottle is restrained from sliding on the ground, otherwise it should sit at about mid-height.

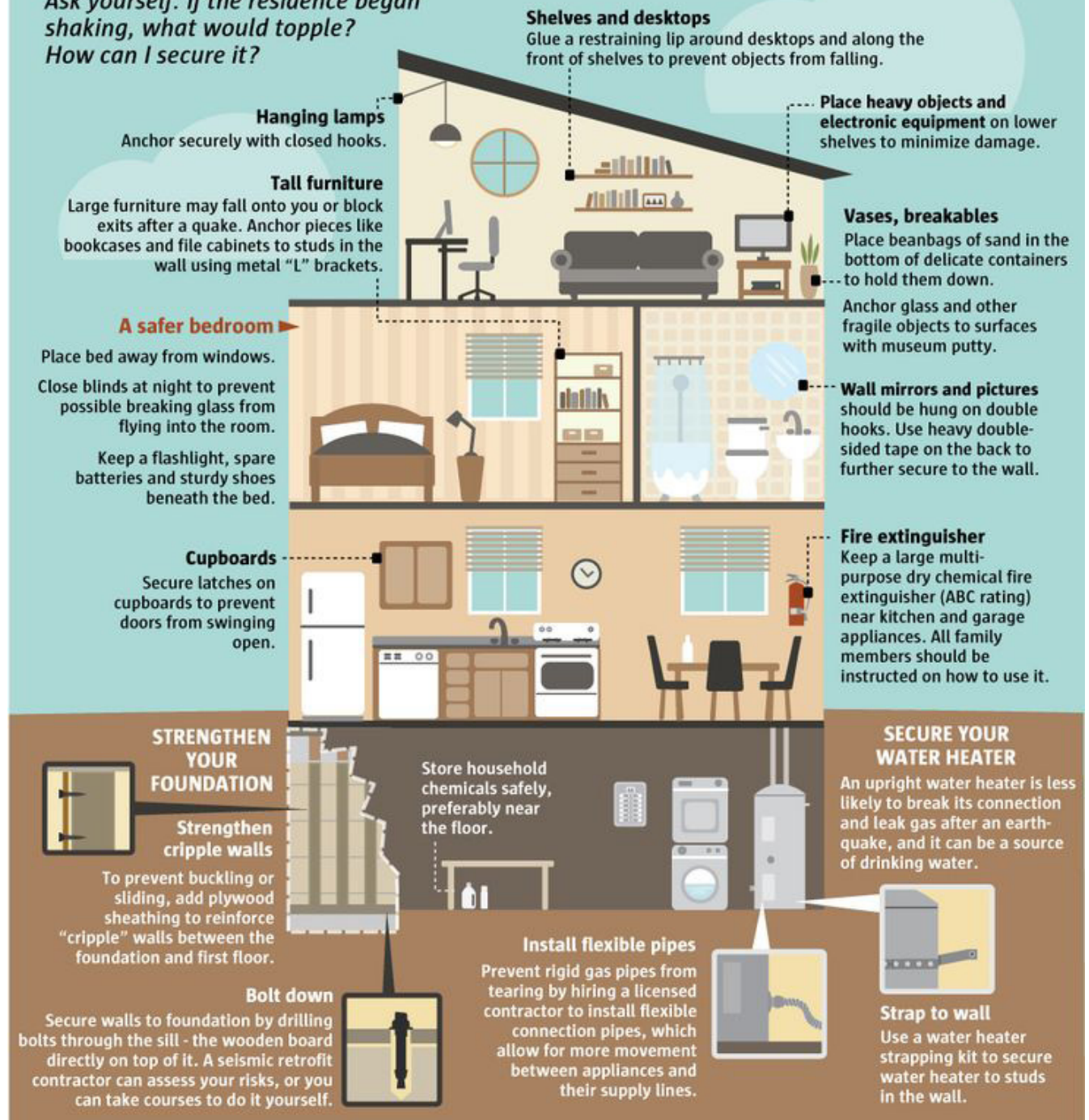
Free-standing burners

Secure your wood burners, standing stoves and gas appliances with bolts and/or angle brackets, or an anchored metal tray with a 12mm or greater lip.

EVALUATE

Evaluate each room

*Ask yourself: If the residence began shaking, what would topple?
How can I secure it?*



Source: Pinterest

KW PACIFIC ESTATES
2883 E. SPRING ST.
LONG BEACH, CA 90806
562.513.7800
www.kwpacificstates.com

