

Earthquake Proofing Home

This playbook outlines necessary steps to secure furniture and appliances and implement modifications in your home to reduce the potential damage from earthquakes.

Step 1: **Assessment**

Conduct a thorough assessment of your home to identify potential hazards in the event of an earthquake. This includes tall, heavy, or freestanding furniture, heavy objects on high shelves, and appliances that could move or topple.

Step 2: **Secure Furniture**

Use flexible fasteners, such as nylon straps, to secure top-heavy furniture, bookcases, and large appliances to wall studs. This prevents them from tipping over during an earthquake.

Step 3: **Latches Installation**

Install safety latches on cabinets to prevent the contents from spilling out during an earthquake. Pay special attention to cabinets with heavy, fragile, or dangerous items.

Step 4: **Mount Electronics**

Mount flat-screen TVs and other heavy electronics to the wall using appropriate brackets. Secure smaller electronics with earthquake putty or Velcro fasteners.

Step 5: **Anchor Water Heater**

Strap your water heater to wall studs to prevent it from falling over and potentially causing water damage or gas leaks.

Step 6: **Store Heavy Items Low**

Rearrange your home to keep heavy items on lower shelves or on the floor. This reduces the risk of them falling and causing injury or damage.

Step 7: **Emergency Kit**

Prepare an emergency kit with essentials such as food, water, medications, flashlights, and a first-aid kit, and store it in an accessible location.

Step 8: **Plan Evacuation**

Create an evacuation plan for your household. Ensure that all family members know the safe spots in each room, and practice evacuation and 'drop, cover, and hold on' drills regularly.

General Notes

Professional Help

Consider hiring a professional to help secure heavy appliances or perform an expert home hazard assessment if unsure about doing it yourself.

Insurance Review

Review your homeowners' insurance policy to understand what is covered in the event of an earthquake and consider additional coverage if necessary.

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