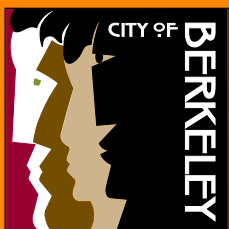


# EARTHQUAKE HAZARD HUNT



**H**ERE in Berkeley, the ques-

tion is not *if* there will be an earthquake, it's only a matter of *when*. There is a 70% chance of a 6.7 quake striking the Greater Bay Area within 30 years. Our community has worked diligently since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the tragic 1991 East Bay Hills fire to make Berkeley a safer place for us all. We, at the City, want to encourage everyone to create a safer environment for your family and neighbors. This is a good time to look at home safety and reduce potential devastating effects of earthquakes by taking 30 minutes to walk through your home to identify potential house hazards.



**1** **Check your water heater.** Securely fasten it to the wall with a heater strap. You can learn more about this by going on to the Associated Bay Area Government (ABAG) website at [www.abag.ca.gov](http://www.abag.ca.gov) and clicking on "Mitigation Techniques" then on "Reducing Risks of Nonstructural Earthquake Damage."



**2** **Identify top-heavy, freestanding furniture** that could topple in an earthquake, such as bookcases and china cabinets.

**3** **Identify heavy or breakable objects** in high shelves or in cabinets. **Securely fasten or move.** For bookshelves, consider installing a wooden, elastic or metal bar (called guardrail) on open shelves to keep items from sliding or falling off.

**4** **Identify appliances and electronic equipment** that might slide off shelves. Secure with industrial-strength velcro or provide a restraining edge on the cabinet or shelf.

**5** **Remove or fasten** anything that might potentially rupture gas or electrical connections.

**6** **Identify mirrors and heavy frames** or objects that are over beds, couches, and chairs and move them, or secure them in place with specially-designed picture hooks available at most hardware stores.



**7** **Check your appliances and water heater** to make sure they are connected to the fuel sources with flexible lines. Flexible connectors on all gas appliances and water heaters can be installed by an electrician.

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**8** Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Be sure to change them every year.

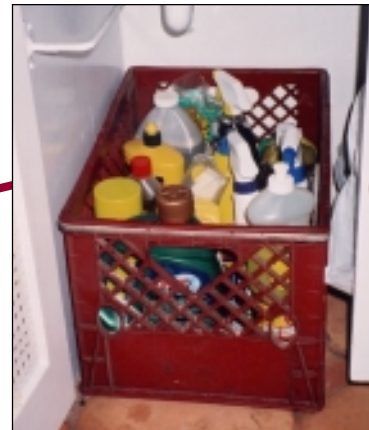
**9** Apply secure latches or hooks on kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors so they remain closed during heavy shaking. Adding appropriate straps to tall and heavy furniture, televisions, computers and other appliances keeps them from toppling in earthquakes.



**10** Inspect the foundation of your house. It should be securely bolted and shear walled. This means that the wooden structure of your house should be fastened to the concrete foundation with appropriate bolts. If your house was built before 1950, the wood is most likely not secured to the concrete. Have this checked by a licensed contractor.

**11** Check for loose tiles and bricks in the chimney and on your roof.

**12** Clear dry brush and leaves from your roof and around your house.



**13** Move poisons, toxins, and other dangerous chemicals into lower cabinet space and place in plastic tray containers.

**14** Know how to turn the gas and electricity off. Order a copy of the City of Berkeley's CERT Disaster Preparedness Handbook by calling (510) 981-FIRE (3473) or view it on-line at [www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/fire/certcover.html/](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/fire/certcover.html/)

**YOU CAN MAKE THE HAZARD HUNT** quick and efficient by identifying the hazards first, then making the actual changes. You can find contractors listed in the phone book and on ABAG's website at [www.abag.ca.gov](http://www.abag.ca.gov). Take notes as you survey your home or make a checklist. Involve your family members and have them understand the safety procedures.

If you have any questions or would like general information about disaster prevention, other announcements, or safety events, contact the Project Impact Coordinator at 644-6580 or e-mail the Project Impact Team at [projectimpact@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:projectimpact@ci.berkeley.ca.us).

DISASTER  
**BERKELEY**  
RESISTANT

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*The information contained in this brochure is standard information available on preparing for emergencies. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material. The City of Berkeley and the authors do not assume any responsibility or liability in how the reader uses the information or the effect of any recommended practice, procedure, or product specified in this brochure.*