

Contents Preparedness

Secure Your Home's Contents and Valuables

In the Northridge earthquake, billions of dollars were lost and thousands of people were injured by falling items and toppling heavy furniture. You can take many steps to reduce your risks.

For Starters

You should secure anything that is heavy enough to cause injury if it falls on you, and fragile or expensive enough to be a significant loss if it falls. Move furniture such as bookcases and file cabinets away from beds, sofas or other places where people sit or sleep. Furniture should be anchored to wall studs (not just drywall).

Most hardware stores and home centers now carry earthquake safety straps and fasteners to make this task simple.

Follow Up

Safeguard every room in the house.

In the kitchen — Install safety latches that prevent cabinet doors from flying open and keep glassware and food and beverage containers from crashing to the floor. Secure refrigerators and other major appliances to walls using earthquake appliance straps.

In the garage or utility room — Move flammable or hazardous materials to lower shelves or the floor; secure lids and other closures. Make sure your water heater is strapped to the wall studs.

Living rooms and bedrooms — Electronics such as televisions, stereos and computers can be heavy and costly to replace. Secure them with flexible nylon straps and buckles.

Objects on open shelves and tabletops can become deadly projectiles. Use either hook and loop fasteners or adhesives such as earthquake putty to secure breakables.

Hanging objects such as mirrors, framed pictures and other objects should be hung from closed hooks and secured at their corners with earthquake putty. Only soft art such as tapestries should be placed above beds or sofas.

For more tips and details, including how-to instructions, visit www.daretoprep.org.

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The Big One is coming.

The Great
Southern California

Shake
Out

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