

EARTHQUAKE HAZARD HUNT

You can identify potential dangers in your home by conducting an earthquake hazard hunt. Foresight and common sense are all that are needed as you go from room to room and imagine what would happen in an earthquake.

Some possible hazards are:

- Tall heavy furniture which could topple, such as bookcases, china cabinets, or modular wall units.
- Hot water heaters which can be pulled away from pipes and rupture.
- Appliances which could move enough to rupture gas or electrical lines.
- Hanging plants in heavy pots that could swing free of hooks.
- Heavy picture frames or mirrors over the bed.
- Latches on kitchen or other cabinets which will not hold the door closed during shaking.
- Breakables or heavy objects that are kept on high or open shelves.
- A masonry chimney that could crumble and fall through an unsupported roof.
- Flammable liquids, like painting or cleaning products that would be safer in a garage or outside shed.
- Take steps to correct these hazards-secure or relocate heavy items as appropriate.

FAMILY EARTHQUAKE DRILL

It's important to know where you should go for protection when your house starts to shake. By planning and practicing what to do before an earthquake occurs, you can condition yourself and your family to react correctly and spontaneously when the first jolt or shaking is felt. An earthquake drill can teach your family what to do in an earthquake.

- Each family member should know safe spots in each room.
- Safe spots: The best places to be are under supported archways, against inside walls and under heavy pieces of furniture like a desk or sturdy table.
- Danger Spots: Stay away from windows, hanging objects, mirrors, fireplaces and tall, unsecured furniture.
- Reinforce this knowledge by physically placing yourself in the safe locations. This is an especially important step for children.
- In the days or weeks after this exercise, hold surprise drills.
- Be prepared to deal with what you may experience after an earthquake-both physically and emotionally.