

## Identifying potential home hazards

All of Washington State has the potential of being impacted by a major earthquake. Earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning. When they occur, they cause the ground to undulate and shake, perhaps violently. Buildings – and their contents – are vulnerable to this rocking and rolling. Fortunately, experts teach how to secure homes to their foundations, and contents to wall studs.

### 30 minutes well spent

Take 30 minutes to walk through your home. Imagine the ground movement of a significant earthquake. Identify potential hazards by completing this worksheet.

1. Check your water heater. Is it securely fastened to the wall studs with heavy-duty metal strapping, top and bottom (and not metal plumber's tape)?

\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

Does your water heater have flexible water and gas connectors?

\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

(Visit [www.kitsapdem.org](http://www.kitsapdem.org) to watch our **Preparedness Video** on how to secure your waterheater.)

2. Tall pieces of furniture are specially vulnerable in earthquakes. Identify each bookcase, china hutch, and armoire which needs fastening.

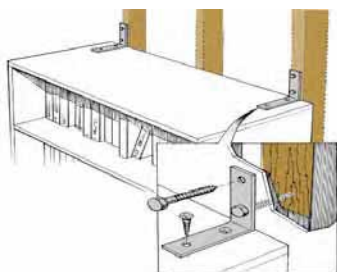
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3. Identify heavy or breakable objects on high shelves. Pay special attention to objects with sentimental value.

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(Visit [www.kitsapdem.org](http://www.kitsapdem.org) to watch our **Preparedness Videos** on how to prepare your home for an earthquake.)

4. Identify computers, stereos, and televisions, and microwaves and other small appliances that need to be secured.

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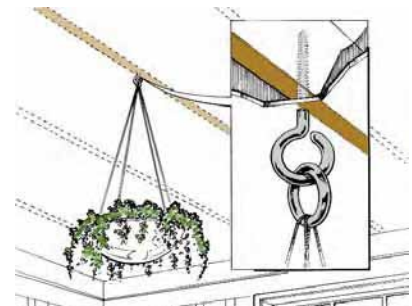
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5. Identify hanging plants, specially in heavy baskets, and hanging lights near windows.

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(Visit [www.kitsapdem.org](http://www.kitsapdem.org) to watch our **Preparedness Videos** on how to prepare your home for an earthquake.)

6. Identify mirrors, heavily-framed pictures, and framed artwork that needs to be secured to wall studs.

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(Pay special attention to artwork, pictures, and mirrors over beds. Consider moving these to another location. Visit [www.kitsapdem.org](http://www.kitsapdem.org) to watch our **Preparedness Videos** on how to secure items in your home.)

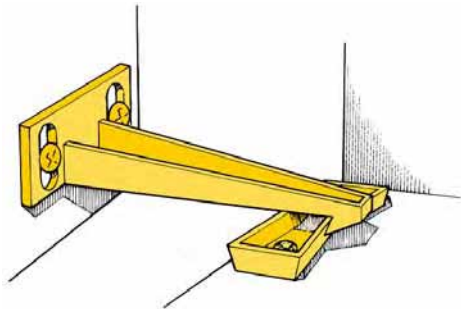
7. Identify kitchen, bedroom, and garage cabinets that need to be secured to keep their contents inside during the ground shaking.

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(Visit [www.kitsapdem.org](http://www.kitsapdem.org) to watch our **Preparedness Video** on how to secure your cabinets)



8. Inspect the foundation of your home. Is your home securely fastened to it?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

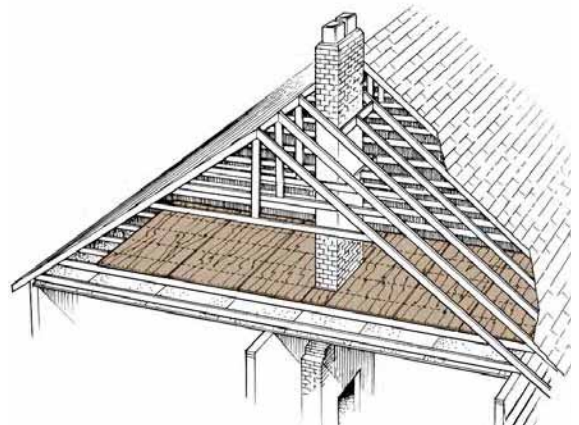
(Check with your local city office which issues building permits for regulations.)

9. Does your chimney have loose bricks?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Has your attic been reinforced with ply wood to help prevent chimney bricks from falling into living areas?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no



10. Identify poisons, toxics, or solvents in breakable containers that are located in high or dangerous locations.

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(See [www.kitsapdem.org](http://www.kitsapdem.org) for information on separating dangerous chemicals, and securing them to prevent spills during earthquakes.)