

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)?

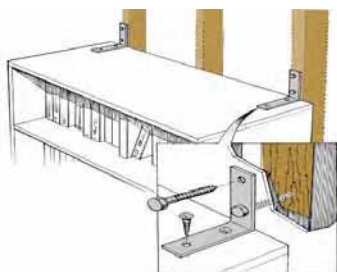
____yes ____no

Does your water heater have flexible water and gas connectors?

____yes ____no

(Visit www.kitsapdem.org to watch our **Preparedness Video** on how to secure your waterheater.)

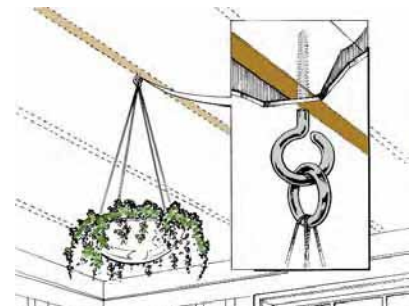
2. Tall pieces of furniture are specially vulnerable in earthquakes. Identify each bookcase, china hutch, and armoire which needs fastening.



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

(Visit 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.



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

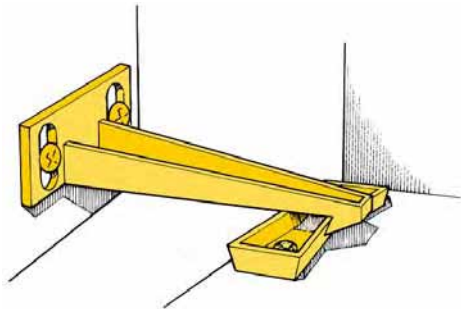
(Visit www.kitsapdem.org to watch our **Preparedness Videos** on how to prepare your home for an earthquake.)

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

(Pay special attention to artwork, pictures, and mirrors over beds. Consider moving these to another location. Visit 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.

(Visit 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

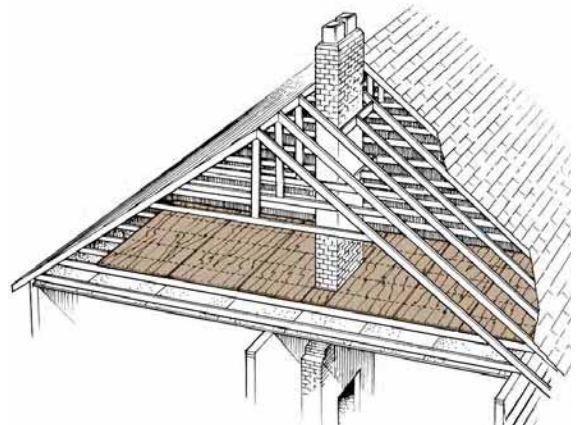
(Check with your local city office which issues building permits for regulations.)

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.

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