



# Home Hazard Hunt

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## Emergency Preparedness—Month 10 Identifying potential home hazards

All of California 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

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

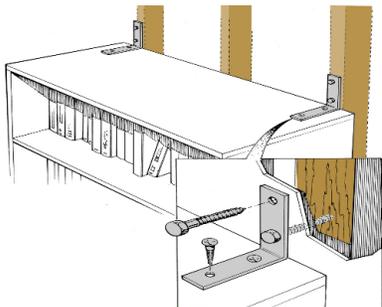
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3. Identify heavy or breakable objects on high shelves. Pay especial attention to objects with sentimental value.

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(Move heavy objects that are located on high shelves to low shelves.)

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

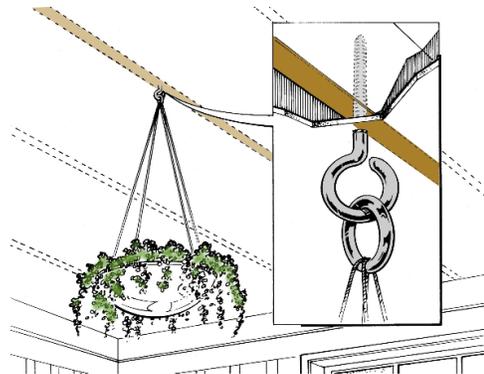
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5. Identify hanging plants, especially in heavy baskets, and hanging lights near windows.

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

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

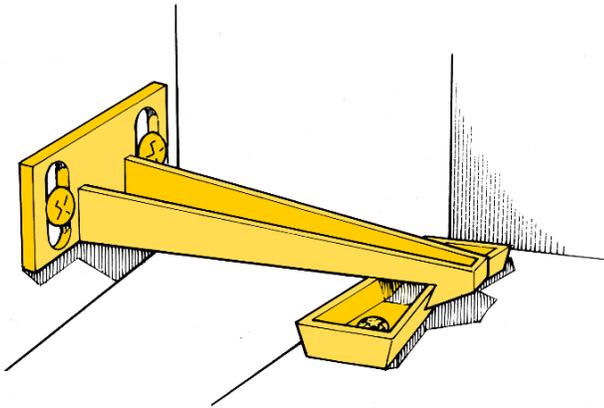
7. Identify kitchen, bedroom, and garage cabinets that need to be secured to keep their contents inside during the ground shaking.

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

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

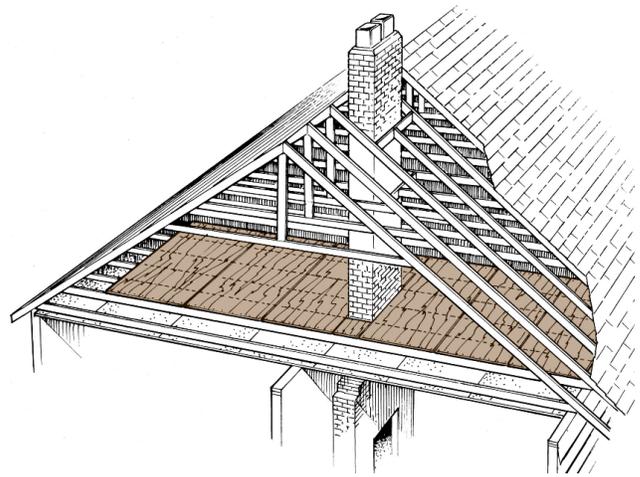
(Check with the City's Building Department for permits and regulations.)

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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### City of South Lake Tahoe Emergency Preparation

As part of the City's initiative to increase communications, we are offering a 12 part monthly series highlighting emergency preparedness. Use these tools to prepare yourself for an emergency event. [www.cityofslt.us/emergency](http://www.cityofslt.us/emergency)