

Earthquake preparation checklist

You can use this online checklist as guide to prepare and secure your home and potentially minimise any damage caused by an earthquake.

CREATE AN EMERGENCY & EVACUATION PLAN

- Develop an evacuation plan specific to your home and local area.
- Identify the safest routes to community support centres.
- Establish or confirm your household's safe meeting point.
- Practise Drop, Cover, Hold on once or twice a year with your family – especially if you live in an earthquake-prone area.
- Confirm the contact details of friends, schools, family and people in your support network.
- Make sure your emergency kit can be easily and safely reached.

AROUND THE HOME

- Safely secure any heavy furniture or appliances to prevent them from falling.
- Have your roof checked annually by a qualified trades person to detect any pre-existing damage and/or repairs that may be needed.
- Safely secure your water heater with a wide metal strap around the top and attach to wall studs.
- If you live in an earthquake-prone area, it could be worth adding earthquake-resistant features to your home, such as reinforced walls and foundations.

IN THE HOME

- Safely secure heavy or tall furniture to the walls – including shelves, cabinets, and bookcases.
- Store all chemicals, poisons, and flammable products in a secure cabinet with latches.
- Familiarise yourself with how to turn off water, gas, electricity, and air-conditioning at your property.
- Store heavy and fragile items on lower shelves (under 1.5 metres).
- Keep an in-date fire extinguisher accessible in case of a fire during or after an earthquake.

CHECK YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

Pack enough drinking water and non-perishable food for three days.

Pack toiletries and towels.

Pack your devices and chargers.

Pack important documents and valuables, including cash.

Have a first aid kit ready.

Pack a torch with spare batteries.

Organise hand sanitiser and face masks.

Don't forget any medication and scripts.

Staying safe is your priority. You can start your claim process after the earthquake has passed.

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