

Buckle Up Your Stuff and Protect Your Space

There are several very important reasons to secure your belongings for the upcoming earthquake:

-Before beginning we suggest you view the five minute video on preparing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGqfvhtbmOQ>

Injury

Large furniture and book cases (all things taller than wide) will fall over or slide, and heavy table top objects may become dangerous projectiles. It is likely medical services will be unavailable for at least one to three days, so you will have to rely on your immediate family and neighbors for any treatment. Think of yourself and them.

A Dangerous Environment

Broken glass and objects become a trip hazard and severed electrical cords can be fire and shock hazards (if there is electricity). When you are rushing to leave your home after an earthquake, you can easily trip on objects, especially if it is night or the room is dark.

Difficulty and Cost to Replace Objects

You will most likely have to live without the broken or damaged belongings for several months because many shops will take time to reopen and restock. Unless you have earthquake specific insurance, you will lose the money to replace the items. Even if you have insurance, there are still deductibles and the hassle of the process.

-Link to Purchase California Earthquake Insurance:

<https://www.earthquakeauthority.com/california-earthquake-insurance-policies/earthquake-insurance-premium-calculator>

Securing your objects is very inexpensive insurance for your health, savings and comfort. It also connects you with the experience now, so when the earth shift happens you are more emotionally ready and able to help others.

We suggest you look around your home for anything that would fall over, fall off, or be dangerous if it was sliding or flying. We have included a hazard hunt diagram and a worksheet of common items in multi-family homes.

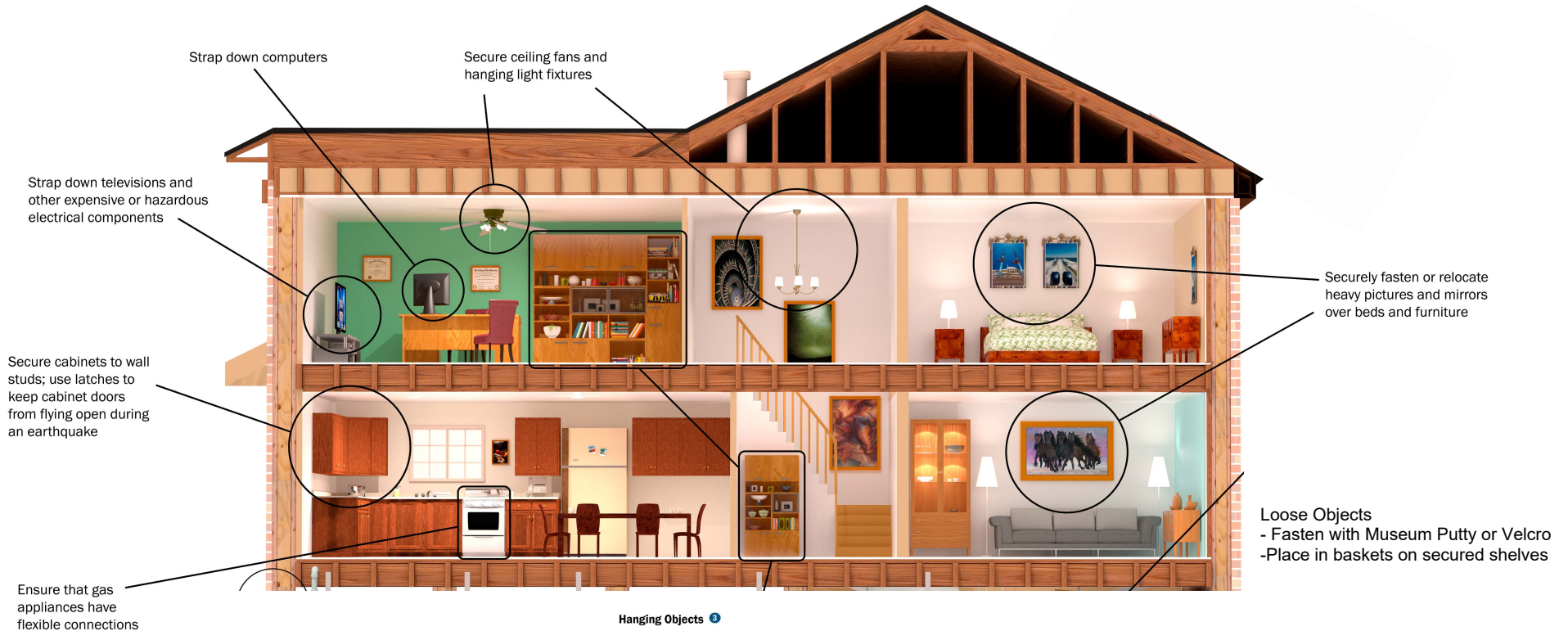
You can then just note the number of items in each room (we suggest placing a post it note to flag the object), and then choose the correct fastener from the reference list, or use it as a sample to secure it your own way. The website address of a sample fastener and its approximate price is also included (although these may have changed) so you can easily order it and have it delivered. We suggest you check your local hardware store first, so you can return or easily get more items and complete the entire securing project in one weekend or less.

You can print out the form, or if you have computer software that fills in PDF forms, you can fill in all the information and click on the links. You can download Adobe Acrobat Reader here (remove the checks from the add on options before downloading): <https://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=KSWLH>

Remember, if you have insurance for your belongings, you may want to include pictures and receipts to help you substantiate a claim for fire, water damage, and earthquakes.

Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt

Multi-Family - Secure Your Home



Your earthquake home hazard hunt should begin with all family members participating. Foresight, imagination, and common sense are all that are needed as you go from room to room imagining what would happen if the earth and house started shaking. Anything that can move, break, or fall when your house starts to shake is a potential hazard.

What would happen to heavy furniture, fixtures, and appliances?

- Look at tall bookcases and shelves. How much would fall off the shelves? Would the whole bookcase topple, or is it anchored to the wall? Anchor bookcases and other top-heavy furniture to wall studs using flexible fasteners (e.g., nylon straps) and lag screws. ⁵
- Add bracing to support air conditioners, particularly on rooftops.
- Do you have hanging light fixtures or plants? Could they swing and hit a window or swing off their hooks? As a minimum precaution, transfer hanging plants from heavy clay pots to lighter ones and use closed hooks on all hanging items. ⁶

Check for possible flying glass.

- Replace glass bottles in the medicine cabinet and around the bathtub and shower with plastic containers.
- What kind of latches are on your kitchen cabinets? Consider replacing magnetic 'touch' latches with ones that will hold the cabinet doors shut during an earthquake. In some cases, a lip or low barrier across shelves may prevent breakables from sliding out. ¹¹
- Where do you sit or sleep? Anchor heavy mirrors and pictures over beds, chairs, and couches with wire through eye screws into studs. Locate beds away from windows. ³

Hanging Objects ³

Prevent wall hangings from bouncing off walls:

- Secure mirrors, pictures, plants, and other objects on closed hooks.
- Secure the bottom corners with earthquake putty or adhesive pads.
- Place only soft art such as tapestries over beds and sofas.

Home Electronics ^{4 12}

Electronics are heavy objects and costly to replace. Secure TVs, stereos, computers, and microwaves with earthquake-resistant flexible nylon straps and buckles for easy removal and relocation (see Figure D).



Figure E. Securing cabinet doors and drawers.

Figure D. Securing home electronics.

In the Kitchen ^{10 11}

- First, secure all cabinets above waist level to the wall studs.
- Use latches designed for earthquake, child-proofing, or boat safety to keep cabinet doors from flying open and contents from falling (see Figure E).
- Have a plumber install flexible connectors on gas appliances.

Furniture ⁶

Follow these important guidelines:

- Secure all tall, top-heavy furniture such as bookcases, wall units, and entertainment centers (see Figure F). Attach them securely to the wall studs with straps.
- Secure the top, on both the right and left sides of the unit, into wall studs, not just into the drywall.
- Use flexible mount fasteners such as nylon straps to allow furniture independent movement from the wall, reducing the strain on studs.
- Secure loose shelving by applying earthquake putty on each corner bracket.
- Store heavy items and breakables on lower shelves.

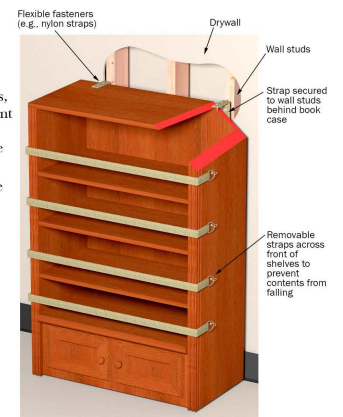


Figure F. Securing top-heavy furniture.

Place

total # in each room

Secure Objects

Object to be Secured
Fill in your own

Part Name
click to see list

Place

Secure Objects

Page

of



Object to be Secured

Part Name
click to see list

Qty

Approx.
Cost \$

Total
Cost \$

Ordered

Ready to
Install

Installed

Secure Objects - Reference List

Part Name	Approx. Cost \$	Sample Web Link - click on https://www - go to site to order (item may have changed - search site)	Photo Zoom to see clearly	Notes
You can substitute your own list				



Ready Made Fasteners (most secure)

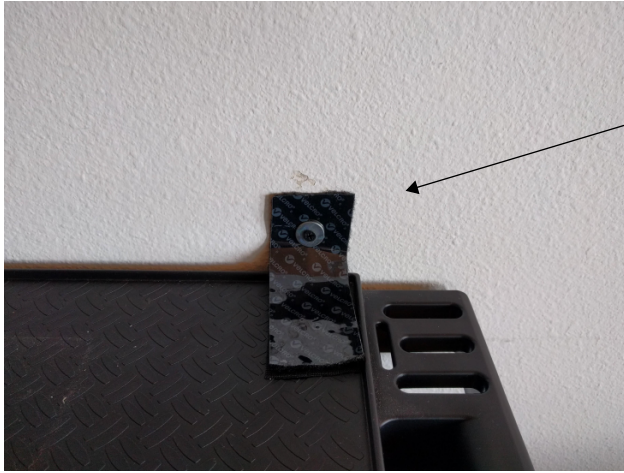


Fasten Furniture



Simple Examples (less expensive and less secure)

Large Furniture



Industrial strength Velcro attached to furniture and screwed to the wall (do not stick Velcro to the wall). Ideal to screw into stud.

Parts

-Industrial Velcro

-1" Drywall screw (use 1" & 5/8" if screwed into stud or drywall anchor for extra strength)

-Washer

* for plaster walls use a toggle bolt or plastic shield kit (you will need to pre-drill)

