

Let's prepare for earthquakes

Run a safety check on the inside of your house

Secure a safe place inside your home where there is no furniture.

If your home has multiple rooms, concentrate your furniture in seldom-used rooms. If that is impossible, rearrange your furniture to secure a space that is as safe as possible.

Do not place furniture that is likely to fall over in sleeping rooms or in rooms used by children, the elderly or the sick.

If an earthquake occurs during sleeping hours, there is the possibility that children, the elderly and the sick will be obstructed by fallen furniture and will not be able to escape in time. Be sure to use an abundance of caution.

Do not place objects around entrances, exits or passageways.

In order to evacuate safely, do not place furniture or objects prone to falling over in passageways to the entrance and exits. Placing objects in these areas can block the exits in an emergency.

Let's prevent our furniture from tipping over and/or falling (Reinforce using two or three methods if possible)

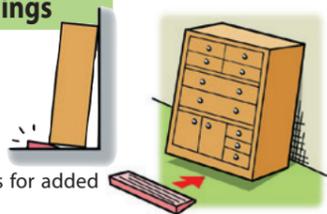
Plan Out How to Store Things

- Store heavy things on the bottom, and lighter things on the top.
- Fix spaces in bookshelves and other storage areas with bookends. Avoid creating spaces when possible.



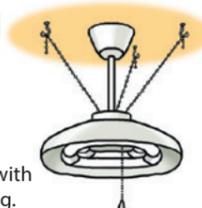
Plan Out How to Place Things

- Place boards under the front ends of furniture and have them rest lightly against the wall.
- Place furniture so it cannot fall down on top of anyone as they sleep.
- Use anti-tipping fittings or poles for added effectiveness.



Reinforce Light Fixtures

- Lights that are affixed directly to the ceiling are safe.
- Hanging lights should be reinforced in multiple locations with fittings and chains.
- Secure both ends of fluorescent light bulbs with heat-resistant tape to prevent them from falling.



Use Earthquake-Resistant Fittings

Type that is Secured with Chains, Etc.

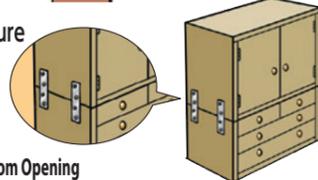
● Anti-Tipping Fittings and Poles

Types include those that secure furniture to walls, beams and lintels and those that secure furniture to the floor. Choose based on the particulars of your furniture and the room.



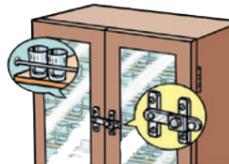
● Fittings to Secure Stacked Furniture

Secures stacked furniture and prevents the upper furniture items from falling.



● Fittings to Prevent Doors and Drawers from Opening

Stops doors and drawers from opening. Furthermore, to ensure that stored objects do not fall, be sure to insert anti-slip sheets on the shelf boards and install wood or aluminum rods to ensure items do not fly out.



At a Housing Complex



Disaster management checklist for condominium management groups

The Entrance

The entrance is an important emergency exit and evacuation route. Prepare a bar or other item to force open the door in case it cannot be opened.



Passageways

To avoid obstructions to evacuations or passage, do not place bicycles or other items in passageways. Furthermore to prevent fires, do not place old newspapers or cloth scraps in passageways.



Emergency Stairwells and Doors

Never place objects around emergency stairwells and doors. Be especially cautious of the areas in front of the emergency doors and around the emergency stairwells.



Balcony Escape Hatch (Emergency Exit)

Be sure you are always aware of how to use the balcony escape hatch. Never place objects around the emergency implements. Do not place anything that might tip over nearby.



Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguishing Equipment

On a daily basis, confirm the locations of fire extinguishers and fire detectors in common areas, as well as how they are used.



Pay Attention to Communications from the Management Group

Always pay attention to communications from the management group regarding topics such as emergency equipment checks and notices of disaster drills.



Check for Safety Around Your Home

Balcony

- Always make sure your balcony is tidy.
- Place flower pots and other items low so they do not fall and secure them.

Roofs

- Reinforce the roof if it has cracks, gaps, or separations.
- Firmly secure antennas.

Window Glass

- Affix shatter-resistant film to window glass.
- Select reinforced glass for windows.

Block Fences and Gateposts

- Repair if cracked or tilting.
- Reinforce block fences and gateposts that do not have a firm foundation in the ground and those that do not have reinforcing bars.

Propane Gas

- Secure firmly with chains.

Check for earthquake resistance

The Great Hanshin Earthquake caused heavy damage attributed to the collapse of buildings. Is your house earthquake-resistant?

Check to see the following:

Ground:	A reclaimed area, wetland, soft ground, and arenaceous ground with the potential of liquefaction require is exposed to potential danger.	Foundation:	A crisscross-reinforced concrete foundation is relatively stable. Not only an unreinforced concrete foundation but a foundation of stone and brick is exposed to potential danger.
Dilapidation:	A superannuated house is exposed to potential danger, especially a house damaged by decay and termites is in danger of collapsing in the quake. Check the north side of the house and foundation around the kitchen and bathroom by pushing them with a screwdriver for dilapidation.	Bracing:	A braced wall is deemed safe, but a brace-free wall is exposed to potential danger. <small>* A brace is a diagonal bracing designed to withstand the earthquake in the wall, and it is installed between the posts.</small>
Design:	A fair-, even-shaped house is relatively stable, but an irregular house is prone to be incapable of withstanding an earthquake.	Number of walls:	A house with more walls enhances the safety, and a house with fewer walls is exposed to potential danger. An assessment of the number of walls on the 1st floor is made, referring to the following figure.
Ground plan: 1st floor	Regular	Irregular	Great Good Satisfied
Elevation view	Regular	Irregular	Poor Needed improvement

◆ If you have any concerns regarding the earthquake resistance of your house, please consult a relevant specialist, the Osaka Kenchiku Bosai Center (Osaka Disaster Control Center; TEL: 6942-0190), or the Housing Policy Office (jyutaku seisaku shitsu) at the Suita City Office.

The city has an assistance system in place.

- The city gives assistance for installation fees to elderly and handicapped persons that cannot install furniture anti-tipping hardware by themselves.

- For buildings erected before the enforcement of the New Earthquake Resistance Standards (buildings constructed prior to May 31, 1981) there is assistance available for earthquake-resistance examinations, improvement plans, and construction.

Refer to page 23 for detailed information.