

HOME SEISMIC SAFETY CHECKLIST

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● PHASE 1: PRE-EARTHQUAKE INSPECTION (Mitigation)

- Foundation:** Check for large cracks in the slab or stem wall.
- Water Heater:** Ensure it is double-strapped to wall studs (top and bottom thirds).
- Gas Lines:** Identify the main shut-off valve. Do you have a wrench nearby?
- Tall Furniture:** Anchor bookcases, wardrobes, and china cabinets to studs.
- Overhanging Items:** Secure heavy mirrors or art above beds and sofas.
- Hazardous Materials:** Move glass jars, cleaners, and fuels to low, latched cabinets.
- Utilities:** Ensure everyone knows how to shut off water and electricity.

Warning: If you find deep diagonal cracks in the foundation or unbraced "cripple walls" in a crawlspace, consult a structural engineer immediately.

● PHASE 2: POST-EARTHQUAKE INSPECTION (Safety)

- Gas Leaks:** Smell for "rotten eggs." If detected, shut off main valve and leave.
- Structural Integrity:** Check for new, large exterior cracks or a leaning chimney.
- Utilities:** Inspect electrical wires for sparks. Turn off breaker if frayed.
- Water Lines:** Check for leaks under sinks and at the main meter.
- Sewage:** Do not flush toilets until you know lines are intact.
- Debris:** Check for fallen items in walkways and exit paths.
- Fire Hazards:** Look for smoldering items or damaged appliances.