# Earthquake Preparedness Checklist: Secure and Drop Cover

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## Household and plan header

PREP DATE

PREPARED BY

PROPERTY ADDRESS

OCCUPANCY

PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD

PETS OR SERVICE ANIMALS

MEETING PLACE NEAR HOME

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

HOW THIS HOUSEHOLD GETS EARTHQUAKE ALERTS

LOCAL RISK NOTES

☐ Household member present for this review

## Secure furniture and contents

| Item | Done | Skip | N/A | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tall, top-heavy furniture anchored to wall studs | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| TVs wall-mounted, or on TV furniture and still anchored to the wall | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Refrigerator and other large appliances strapped or tethered | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Water heater restrained so it cannot overturn | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Mirrors, pictures, and hanging objects secured | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Heavy and breakable objects moved to low shelves or the floor | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Cabinet and drawer latches installed so contents cannot spill | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| At least two exits kept clear of furniture that could overturn | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Flammable and toxic products stored so they cannot spill | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Anchor kits attached into studs or masonry, straps tight with no slack | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Utility shutoff knowledge

| Item | Done | Skip | N/A | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Electrical panel and main disconnect located and reachable | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Household knows to shut individual circuits before the main | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Main house water shutoff found, tagged, and confirmed it will close | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gas shutoff procedure learned from the gas company for this meter | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Practice did not actually turn the gas off | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Shutoff tool is at the valve or in the kit | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Household knows when it would shut utilities, and when it would not | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Flexible gas and water connections reviewed as licensed plumber work | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Household knows a restrained, undamaged water heater can be emergency water | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Household kit

| Item | Done | Skip | N/A | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drinking water staged at one gallon per person per day | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Non-perishable food and a manual can opener staged | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Battery or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio if you have one | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Flashlight and extra batteries staged (not candles as the main light) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| First aid kit staged | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Prescriptions organized and protected for an outage or evacuation | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Whistle staged to signal for help | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Dust masks staged for debris or trapped air | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Wrench or pliers staged to shut off utilities | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Cell phone chargers and a backup battery staged | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Fire extinguisher on hand and household knows where it is | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Bed-kit staged: sturdy shoes, flashlight, glasses, dust mask, and whistle | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Pet food, water, leash or carrier, and pet-record copies staged | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Kit location is known, and expired food, water, or batteries were replaced | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Drop, Cover, and Hold On

| Item | Done | Skip | N/A | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Household practiced Drop, Cover, and Hold On together | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Everyone can Drop onto hands and knees where they are | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Cover under a sturdy table if nearby, else an interior wall away from windows | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Hold On until the shaking stops, and move with the shelter | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Plan is stay inside, do not run outside, and avoid doorways | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| If in bed: stay there, face down, cover head and neck with a pillow | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wheelchair or walker plan: lock wheels and cover head and neck | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| If outside: move to an open area, then Drop and Cover until shaking stops | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| If in a car: pull over, set the parking brake, stay in the vehicle | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Household is ready to Drop, Cover, and Hold On again for aftershocks | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Meeting place and communication

| Item | Done | Skip | N/A | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Near-home meeting place known to everyone in the household | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Outside-neighborhood meeting place named if you cannot return home | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Out-of-area contact is written down and saved on phones | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| At least two ways out of the home are identified and kept usable | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Household signed up for alerts or early warning where it is offered | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| If near a coast or below a dam: inland or higher-ground place is named | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Medications, devices, kids, and extra help listed in the plan | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Pets are in the reunion and leave-the-house plan | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Household practiced how they reconnect after shaking | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## After the shaking stops

| Item | Done | Skip | N/A | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plan is to wait, check for immediate dangers, then move | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Sturdy shoes go on before walking through debris or glass | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| If the building is damaged, go outside, stay away, and do not re-enter | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| If trapped: text or bang, use a whistle, cover your mouth, do not shout first | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Plan is flashlights, not candles, matches, lighters, or switches until gas is clear | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| If you smell or hear gas: leave, shut from outside if you can, call from another location | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Plan is to text or post that you are OK, and save voice calls for emergencies | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Plan is to hire a professional for structural or chimney damage, not to grade it here | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Insurance and papers

| Item | Done | Skip | N/A | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Household knows a standard homeowners or renters policy does not cover earthquake | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Earthquake coverage options reviewed with an agent, or skipped this pass | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Photo or video inventory of rooms and valuables stored off-site or in the cloud | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| ID, policy, and medical-list copies stored where you can grab them | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Insurer contact and policy number stored where you can reach them after a quake | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Structural retrofit, if considered, is a licensed conversation, not a score on this form | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Review and sign-off

**OPEN ITEMS AND NOTES**

**KIT STORAGE LOCATION**

**NEXT REVIEW DATE**

**PREP RESULT**

**SIGNATURE**

**SECOND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER**

**TIME SIGNED**

Reference only. Verify against local codes, a licensed inspector or a qualified contractor.