

Home Hazard Hunt Checklist

Prepared by the Peninsulas Emergency Preparedness Committee
of Washington 7/01
(www.pep-c.org)

Interior Hazards

Go through each room in your home and check for the following hazards. Itemize what you find on your Action List.

1 Identify heavy or breakable objects on high shelves of bookcases or cabinets, or on the tops of dressers or headboards, etc. Make a note to move these objects to lower locations, or secure them during Month #5.

2 Identify mirrors and heavily framed pictures that are located above beds, couches, etc. Make a note to relocate these items or securely mount them during Month #10.

3 Identify top-heavy, free-standing furniture that could topple in an earthquake. Likely pieces are tall bookcases, china cabinets, chests of drawers, shelving units, etc. Make a note to secure these items to wall studs during Month #5.

4 Identify all pieces of electronic equipment (computers, stereos, televisions, radios, etc.), small appliances (microwave ovens, toasters, blenders, etc.), and other types of equipment (sewing machines, answering machines, etc.) that may slide off their cabinet or counter tops. Make a note to secure these items during Month #5.

5 Identify hanging plants, especially those in heavy baskets, and hanging lamps that are near windows. Ground movement may cause them to swing and fall and/or break the windows. Make a note to move these items or secure them during Month #10.

6 Identify latches on kitchen, bathroom and workroom cabinets whose doors may not remain securely closed during heavy shaking. Make a note to secure these doors by replacing the latches during Month #10.

7 Identify poisons, toxics or solvents in breakable containers that are located in high or dangerous locations. Make a note to move these items to lower locations. Keep them away from your water and food storage, and out of the reach of children and pets during Month #10.

Utility & Structural Hazards

Check for the following hazards. Itemize what you find on your Action List.

8 Check your water heater to make sure it is strapped to the wall studs with nylon strapping. Make a note to properly secure your water heater during Month #6.

9 Inspect the foundation of your home. Make sure your home is properly bolted to the foundation, and that there are no exposed cripple walls. Make a note to secure the foundation and cripple walls during Month #12.

10 Inspect your chimney and roof for loose bricks and tiles that may be jarred loose in an earthquake. Determine whether plywood should be added to the attic to protect your home in case your chimney falls in an earthquake. Make a note to secure your chimney during Month #12.