



## HOME HAZARD HUNT

### LOOKING OUT FOR HOME HAZARDS

Water Heater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Start with securing your water heater to the wall.</li> <li>✓ Contact BC Hydro or a professional for more information.</li> </ul>
Gas Appliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Secure any gas appliances such as your stove or clothes dryer to a wall stud. If these objects move or topple, the resulting gas leak could destroy your home.</li> <li>✓ Longer, flexible gas connectors and electrical cords long enough to allow for movement should be installed – but <b>only by qualified personnel</b>.</li> </ul>
Major Appliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Secure refrigerators, top and bottom, with plumbers tape (perforated metal strapping).</li> <li>✓ Wood burning stoves are usually freestanding so they are unsupported and vulnerable to sliding or overturning. Check with your manufacturer about bolting your particular model to the floor.</li> </ul>
Furniture on Wheels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Items such as stereo stands and portable dishwashers can become large moving projectiles which could cause serious damage.</li> <li>✓ If you must use castors or glides on appliances, lock the wheels or place a wedge under the front wheels to keep them from sliding or overturning.</li> </ul>
Tall Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Secure top-heavy, freestanding furniture, like bookcases or china cabinets, which could topple in an earthquake.</li> <li>✓ Anything over three feet high could be a problem.</li> <li>✓ Use commercially available devices.</li> </ul>
Heavy Objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Move heavy or breakable or valuable objects from high shelves or in cabinets to lower locations or attach a wooden or metal guardrail to open shelves to keep items from sliding off.</li> </ul>
Electronic Appliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Secure electronic equipment, like stereos, televisions, computers, or appliances, (like microwave ovens, which may slide off shelves or out of cabinets).</li> <li>✓ Use double-sided tape, Velcro fasteners, or put restraining edges on the cabinets or shelves.</li> </ul>
Window Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify all hanging plants and lamps which are near windows. In an earthquake they could swing and break the glass.</li> <li>✓ Secure these objects by closing the opening in their hook with lock wire. Make sure the hook is screwed into a ceiling stud.</li> </ul>

**HOME HAZARD HUNT CONTINUED...**

Mirrors & Pictures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Move mirrors and heavily framed pictures which are placed over beds, couches or exits.</li> </ul>
Cabinets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Make sure latches on kitchen, bathroom and workroom cabinets will hold in heavy shaking. To prevent cabinet doors from flying open, install a latch operated by a pull back mechanism or turn handle. Put heavy items on bottom shelves.</li> </ul>
Toxic Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Move poisons, toxins, or solvents in breakable containers which are located in high or dangerous locations to a lower, well-ventilated storage area, behind a guardrail or in a cabinet.</li> <li>✓ Make sure they are kept away from emergency water and out of reach of children or pets.</li> <li>✓ Check with Provincial Waste Management for information about safe storage.</li> </ul>
Windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Window glass will shatter and fly across a room.</li> <li>✓ Consider replacing glass with safety glass or adding a protective film.</li> <li>✓ Locate beds away from windows.</li> </ul>
Chimneys and Roofs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Inspect your chimney and roof for loose tiles and bricks.</li> <li>✓ Remove or replace tiles as necessary and strengthen the roof around the chimney.</li> </ul>
Utility Shut Offs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Know where your gas, electric and water shut offs are located.</li> <li>✓ Everyone should know how to turn off the utilities in case of a leak or problem.</li> <li>✓ Make sure that the gas and water valves are not rusted or stuck shut. If they are, call a professional.</li> <li>✓ Keep a suitable wrench close to the gas meter.</li> </ul>
Local Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify hazards outside your home, such as overhead wires or stream banks that may not be stable.</li> <li>✓ You may not be able to do anything about these hazards but you and your family should be aware that they exist.</li> </ul>