

9 Keeping Furniture from Falling

During an earthquake injuries and death can result from falling furniture, items falling from shelves, and breaking glass. You can help protect against this by preparing your home in advance.

Depending on how you choose to secure your furniture, it may be necessary to put nails in the walls of your home. If you are renting your residence, please discuss the different methods of securing furniture with your landlord beforehand to avoid any problems.

1) Put your furniture in safe locations.

Do not put large furniture in bedrooms if possible. Put large furniture in the room with the fewest exits so that other exit paths will not be blocked in an earthquake. Try to place pieces where there will be the least chance of death or injury, even if the furniture falls during an earthquake.

To avoid injuries due to falling objects, don't put heavy items on top of cupboards, wardrobes, or other high places.

2) Prevent furniture from falling.

Secure large items like cupboards, wardrobes, refrigerators, and TVs with sturdy metal fasteners to keep them from falling.

3) Use protective film to prevent flying glass.

After an earthquake, foot injuries can occur indoors due to broken glass on the floor. Stick protective film on windows and other items with glass such as cupboards to prevent flying glass.

4) Don't leave objects in hallways or near exits.

In preparation for an emergency where it becomes necessary to secure an exit route, try not to leave items in hallways or near exits. You will not be able to evacuate your home in an earthquake if fallen furniture is blocking the exitway.

10 Fire Prevention Measures

We need to take measures to prevent fires by thinking every day about what would happen if a fire breaks out and by checking places in the house where a fire could start. Fires can be successfully put out early as a result of daily preparation. Make sure to participate in local fire prevention training and work together with your neighbors to create fire prevention measures.

• Get a fire extinguisher. Read and understand how to use it beforehand.

Dry chemical fire extinguishers can be used for any type of fire. Put fire extinguishers and other fire prevention equipment in easy to see and easy to reach places.

• Keep several bucketfuls of water ready in case of a fire.

• Don't put flammable items on or around open flames.

• Secure gas canisters and kerosene tanks to prevent them from falling.

• Make sure that everyone in your family knows how to turn the main gas line and electric circuit breakers off and on.

