

A photograph of a light-colored exterior wall of a building, showing significant damage. A large, jagged crack runs diagonally across the wall, starting from the top left and extending towards the bottom right. There are also several smaller, thinner cracks. A dark downspout runs vertically along the left side of the wall. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

EARTHQUAKE PREPARATION

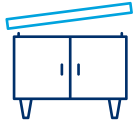
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EARTHQUAKE PREPARATION

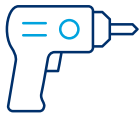
Property & Possessions

Earthquake risk is increasing in Canada due to population growth and increased development in vulnerable areas, as well as aging infrastructure and a lack of preparedness. The Geological Survey of Canada estimates a one in five chance of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years. While getting yourself and your loved ones to safety is paramount during an earthquake, here are a few ways you can plan ahead to prepare your home.



SECURE FURNITURE AND HEAVY ITEMS

Most earthquake-related injuries are caused by falling debris or items as a result of the ground shaking. It is important to fasten heavy items such as shelves, large picture and mirrors securely to walls.



SECURE MAJOR GAS APPLIANCES

Your water heater, furnace and any other gas appliances should be strapped to a wall, if possible. If your gas company recommends it, install an automatic gas shut-off valve that is triggered during an earthquake.



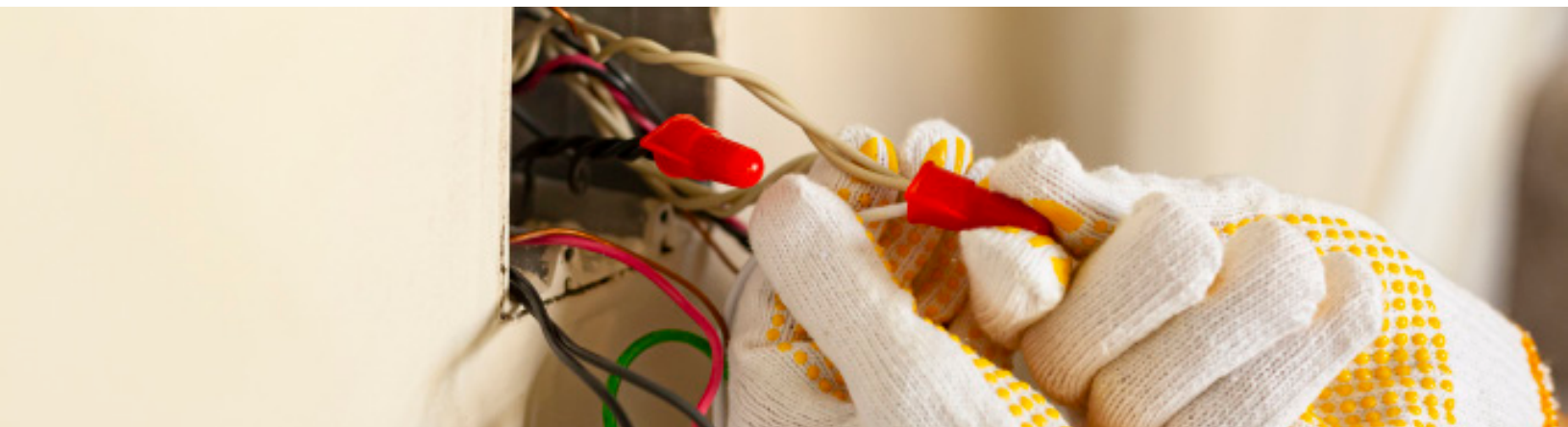
CHECK YOUR WIRING AND GAS FITTINGS

Faulty wiring or improper gas fittings can lead to fires if an earthquake hits. Have a licensed professional inspect your home and install flexible pipefittings if possible.



SAFELY STORE CHEMICALS AND FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

Toxic chemicals, pesticides and flammable liquids should be safely stored on the bottom shelf of a locked cabinet.



EARTHQUAKE PREPARATION

Emergency Response Plan

Emergency situations, such as earthquakes, can be chaotic and stressful. Having a home emergency response plan can help you and your family stay safe and feel confident in an emergency situation.

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

Earthquakes are unpredictable. The first sign may be a loud bang, alert on your phone or the ground shaking. If you get caught in an earthquake, take the following steps to stay safe:

- **Drop, cover and hold** - If you feel the ground shake, immediately drop to ground and find cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a table. Hold on to the item you are taking cover under until the ground stops shaking.
- **Do not run outside** - Do not leave your cover. There is a higher risk of injury from falling or being hit by flying/falling objects and debris.
- **Stay away glass, windows and doorways** - In most modern buildings, doorways do not provide appropriate protection during an earthquake.

STAY CONNECTED

Create a communication plan, including how you will receive local emergency updates/alerts, as well as information on how to keep in contact with your family and emergency services. Make sure all family members have emergency phone numbers saved in their phones including numbers for each family member, the police station, a nearby hospital and an out-of-area emergency contact.



CREATE AN EMERGENCY BAG

Creating an emergency bag or kit is a great way to have everything you need in one place so you can quickly evacuate. Once a year, review what's in your emergency bag or kit and replace any expired items. Here are some examples of things to pack in your emergency bag:

- Emergency blankets
- Flashlight with batteries or crank
- Radio
- Copy of emergency contacts
- Non-perishable food items
- Medical supplies - first aid kit, copies of prescriptions, hand sanitizer, N95 masks
- Bottles of water

EARTHQUAKE PREPARATION

We Are Here For You

Emergency situations are stressful, but we believe your insurance shouldn't be. Whether you need to update a policy or make a claim, our teams are here to handle your insurance needs so that you can focus on you and your loved ones' safety.

UPDATING YOUR INSURANCE POLICY

Preparing your insurance policy is just as important as preparing your property; our team is here to help. Earthquake insurance may be available to help cover the costs to repair your home or replace damaged items. Earthquake Deductible Buy-Down Insurance may also be available to help lower your deductible in the event you have to make a claim.

It is important to let us know if you have made any changes that might impact your coverage level. If you have made major renovations or large purchases since your renewal, contact us so we can ensure you have the proper level of coverage.

CLAIMS SUPPORT

Our dedicated teams are ready to assist you should you have to make a claim. If you have a question about your policy or need to submit a claim, please contact us at info@westerncoast.ca or toll-free at 1-888-517-7171. If you have an emergency claim outside of our regular operating hours, please call 1-877-599-7299.

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Nothing is more important than the safety of our customers and communities. That's why we've created a Community Emergency Support page that provides information on preparing for an emergency event or evacuation and links to local relief efforts, emergency care, and animal shelters in affected areas. Visit westerncoastinsurance.ca/ces to access all of our Community Emergency Support resources.

