Around the House

Precautions you can take to help make your home safer in an earthquake

- Replace heavy hangings over bed with lightweight alternatives
- Nail plywood to ceiling joists to protect occupants from falling chimney bricks
- Anchor hanging lamps with closed hooks or relocate
- Keep heavy, unstable objects away from exit routes and anchor wheels
- Secure latches on cupboards to prevent doors from swinging open
- Secure top-heavy furniture to wall studs with metal braces
- Keep breakables in low or secure cabinets
- Locate main electrical and gas switches for emergency shut-off
- Keep fire extinguisher in accessible place
- Use flexible connectors where gas lines meet appliances
- Stabilize water heater with metal straps to wall studs
- Keep emergency supplies on hand, including drinking water, canned or dried foods, first-aid kit, flashlight, and portable radio with extra batteries

Federal Emergency Management Agency/American Red Cross