

3 Strap Your Water Heater...

If a water heater falls during an earthquake, it could break a gas line and start a fire. To minimize this risk from your water heater, add flexible connections to both the gas and water lines to reduce the danger from fire or a water leak. To keep the water heater from toppling over, wrap it with two bands of $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 24 gauge perforated steel (commonly known as plumber's tape).

Connect the bands to nearby wall studs with metal struts cut to length from $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter wall "EMT" conduit. Each end of the strut is then flattened, drilled and bent at an angle to fit the wall. For more details and instructions contact the Building Regulations Division.



...BRACE YOUR CHIMNEY

If you have a masonry chimney, it may not withstand the force of a strong earthquake. You should have your chimney evaluated by a licensed professional. The Building Regulations Division has handouts illustrating various strengthening methods. The safest chimney is a lightweight metal one.



TOOL-LENDING LIBRARY

For City residents who complete the Home Strengthening Program, every major tool you need to "do-it-yourself" (except a circular saw) is available free of charge at our Permit Center in City Hall.

Caution: Tool Safety

Always read instructions before operating any power tools. If you are unfamiliar with the operation of any tool, ask an expert for some advice before you start. Rotary hammer drills and hole saws can be tricky and especially jarring to your body if you are not experienced in their proper use. Be sure to wear adequate eye protection, earplugs and gloves.