

Get ready for earthquakes

How to keep your family and home safe

Easy Read version



 **Earthquakes**



Australian Government

**National Emergency
Management Agency**

How to use this document



We are Get Ready Australia.

We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 21.



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

getready.gov.au

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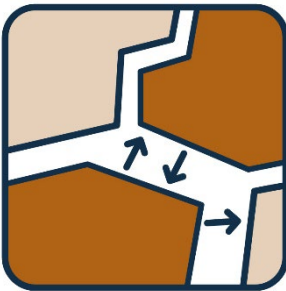
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Word list 21

What is an earthquake?



An **earthquake** is when the ground suddenly moves or shakes.



This happens when parts of the earth deep underground move.



An earthquake can be an **emergency**.

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.

Earthquakes can cause a lot of damage to:



- buildings



- roads



- important services – like power and phones.



Earthquakes can cause **landslides**.

A landslide is when rocks, dirt or mud slide down a hill after heavy rain or shaking.



Earthquakes can also cause **tsunamis**.

A tsunami is a huge ocean wave that rushes water over the land near the sea.

What should you do in an earthquake?



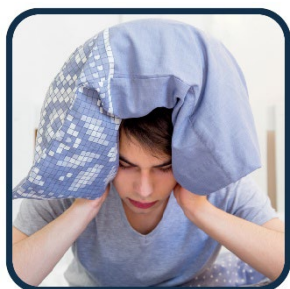
You might get an alert before an earthquake happens.

This alert might be a few seconds or a minute before the earthquake starts.

If you get an alert or feel shaking, you should:



- drop to the ground
- find cover under a strong piece of furniture – like a table
- hold on until the shaking stops.



If you can't get under furniture, you should use your arms or a cushion to cover your head.



You should practice what to do during an earthquake with your family.



You should also make sure you keep up to date on news about the earthquake.



You can find these updates on your state and local government:

- websites
- social media.

Who is at risk of earthquakes?

You are more at risk of earthquakes
if you live in:



- older buildings that weren't made to handle earthquakes



- multi-storey buildings where falling objects and stairwells might be dangerous



- near slopes where earthquakes might cause landslides.

How do you get ready for an earthquake?



To get ready for an earthquake you should talk to your friends and neighbours.

They might know important information that can help you.

You should also:



- get your home ready



- make an emergency plan



- pack an emergency kit.

Get your home ready

To get your home ready for an earthquake, you should:



- attach shelves, bookcases and TVs to walls



- put things that are heavy or easy to break in low cupboards



- keep ways to get out of your home clear at all times.

Make an emergency plan



An **emergency plan** explains what you will do to stay safe if an earthquake happens.



You should:

- make your plan with people you live with
- write your plan down.



Your plan should include important phone numbers you might need in an emergency.

For example, **emergency services**.



Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.

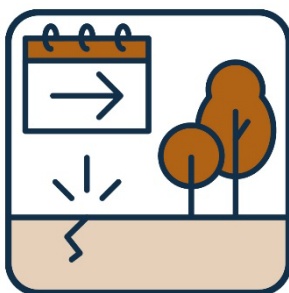


Your plan should also include information about how you will stay safe after an earthquake.

For example, you should:



- check your home for damage and leave if it's unsafe



- be ready for **aftershocks** that can happen for weeks or months.

Aftershocks are smaller earthquakes that happen after a big earthquake.

Pack an emergency kit

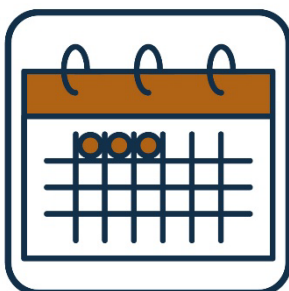


You should have an **emergency kit** ready.



An emergency kit includes important things that can help you:

- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



You should have enough things in your emergency kit to last you for at least 3 days.



This is just in case you must stay home without power or water.



You should keep your emergency kit in a place that is:

- dry
- easy to get to.



Everyone in your home should know where your emergency kit is.

What to pack in your emergency kit

Your emergency kit should include:



- clothes



- wool blankets



- toiletries – like a toothbrush and hairbrush



- toilet paper.

Your emergency kit should include:



- sunscreen



- hand sanitiser



- medicine and a first aid kit



- water – at least 3 litres per day for each person.

Your emergency kit should also include:



- food that won't go bad quickly – like canned food



- a way to open your food – like a can opener



- a radio that uses batteries



- a torch and extra batteries.

If you need to leave your home, make sure you take your:



- mobile phone and charger



- important documents

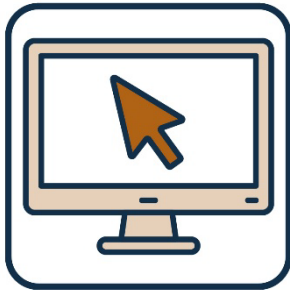


- money and bank cards



- things that are important and mean a lot to you.

Where can you find more information?



You can visit our website to find more information.

getready.gov.au

We can help you:



- learn more about what to do in an earthquake



- learn how to contact emergency services in your state and territory



- get emergency warnings for your area.



You can stay up to date when an earthquake is happening by listening to:

- ABC radio
- SBS radio.

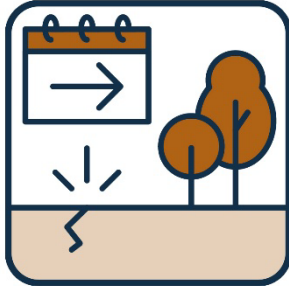


If you speak a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National).

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Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Aftershock

Aftershocks are smaller earthquakes that happen after a big earthquake.



Earthquake

An earthquake is when the ground suddenly moves or shakes.

This happens when parts of the earth deep underground move.



Emergency

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.



Emergency kit

An emergency kit includes important things that can help you:

- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



Emergency plan

An emergency plan explains what you will do to stay safe if an earthquake happens.



Emergency services

Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.



Landslide

A landslide is when rocks, dirt or mud slide down a hill after heavy rain or shaking.



Tsunami

A tsunami is a huge ocean wave that rushes water over the land near the sea.



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