

Get ready for earthquakes

Prepare your family and home for earthquakes.



Did you know?

- Australia has **hundreds of small earthquakes** each year, though most are too small to feel.
- Larger earthquakes are less common, but they can cause **serious damage** to buildings, roads, and essential services.
- Earthquakes can cause **landslides and even tsunamis**.

What is an earthquake?

An earthquake is a sudden shaking or movement of the ground, caused by shifts deep underground.

Am I at risk?

Earthquakes can happen anywhere in Australia, but some regions have a higher risk. You may be more at risk if you live in or visit:

- older buildings not designed to withstand earthquakes
- multi-storey buildings where falling objects and stairways may be dangerous
- near steep slopes where earthquakes may cause landslides.



How to prepare for an earthquake

Preparing today can help you stay safe if there is an earthquake. Talk with everyone in your home and prepare together so each person knows what to do.

To prepare for an earthquake, you should:



Ready your home



Make an emergency plan



Pack an emergency kit



Talk to your neighbours and local community

In most situations, if you feel shaking or get an earthquake alert, immediately:



To learn more, visit the website

getready.gov.au



Australian Government
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Ready your home

- Secure shelves, bookcases and TVs to walls.
- Store heavy or breakable items in low cupboards.
- Keep exits clear at all times.



Make an emergency plan

Preparing today can help you stay safe and reduces stress during an earthquake.

Talk to your family about what you will do if there is an earthquake. People who are prepared recover faster.

An emergency plan is a written document. **Here's what to include in your plan:**

What will you do during an earthquake?

If the ground starts shaking:

- **DROP** to the ground.
- **COVER** under a sturdy table or furniture.
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops.

Practice this with your family.

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

Who will you call in an emergency?

Keep a list of important phone numbers for help.

How will you stay safe after an earthquake?

- Check your home for damage, and leave if it's unsafe.
- Understand aftershocks can occur for weeks or months.

Stay updated on conditions in your area through state and local government emergency service websites and social media.



Pack an emergency kit

An emergency kit is a box or bag of essential items you can pack today so you are ready if an earthquake or other emergency happens.

Have at least three days of supplies in case you must stay home without power or water.

Keep your kit in a dry, easy-to-reach place, and make sure everyone in your home knows where it is.



What to pack in your emergency kit

Pack these items now so your kit is always ready. You may need to add items to your kit based on your family's specific situation.

- ☐ **Clothes**
- ☐ **Woollen blankets**
- ☐ **Toiletries and toilet paper**
- ☐ **Sunscreen and hand sanitiser**
- ☐ **Medicines and a first aid kit**
- ☐ **Water** (at least 3 litres per person, per day)
- ☐ **Food** (non-perishable food and a can opener)
- ☐ **Battery-operated radio**
- ☐ **Torch & spare batteries**

If you need to leave, make sure you take:

- ☐ **Mobile phone and charger**
- ☐ **Important documents**
- ☐ **Valuables**
- ☐ **Cash and bank cards**
- ☐ **Medicines**

Where to get more information

Find the contact details for your state or territory emergency services.

getready.gov.au



Learn how to receive warnings and prepare for earthquakes and other natural hazards.

During an earthquake, listen to local alerts and updates on ABC or SBS radio.

Call **131 450** for the national Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).



If you are in an emergency,
call 000 immediately.



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