

# What to Do After an Earthquake

## When the shaking stops, you should:



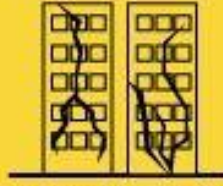
Expect aftershocks.



Check yourself and then others.



Look for fires.



Stay out of damaged buildings. Damaged buildings may be destroyed by aftershocks following the main quake.



If you were away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe.

## When you return home:



Be alert for and observe official warnings.



Use extreme caution. Check for damage outside your home. Then, if the structure appears safe to enter, check for damage inside.



Examine walls, floors, doors, staircases, and windows.



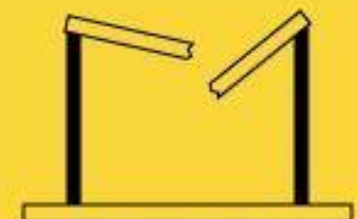
Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas.



Look for damage to the electrical system. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell burning insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.



Check for damage to sewage and water lines. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap.



Watch for loose drywall and ceilings that could fall.