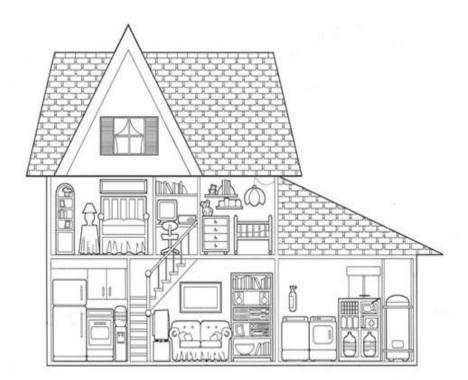
We often think of emergency preparedness in terms of environmental and industrial threats. Sometimes we forget that we may have a lot of hazards in our own homes that can make your home a more dangerous place in the event of such a disaster. Take a look at our Home Hazard Hunt to help you identify potential problems, and make your home safer.

HOME HAZARD HUNT

LOOKING OUT FOR HOME HAZARDS PART OF YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN



Windows	 Broken and flying glass is the fingerprint of an earthquake. BEWARE! Consider replacing glass with safety glass or adding a protective film. Locate beds away from windows.
Window Hazards	 Look for hanging plants or lighting fixtures which are near windows. In an earthquake they could swing and break the glass. Move to a safer location or fasten securely.

Furniture on Wheels	Items such as stereo stands and portable dishwashers can become large moving projectiles which could cause serious damage. They should be firmly secured.
Tall Furniture	 Look for top-heavy, freestanding furniture, like bookcases or china cabinets, which could topple in an earthquake. Anything over 3 feet high could be a problem. Secure with commercially available devices.
Blocked Exits	 Move large furniture away from exits or secure firmly to prevent possible blocking of exits.
Heavy Objects	 Look for heavy or breakable or valuable objects on high shelves or in cabinets. These should be secured or moved to lower locations.
Mirrors & Pictures	 Look for mirrors, heavily framed pictures, etc. which are placed over beds, couches or chairs. These can be relocated or re-anchored securely.
Major Appliances	 Look for heavy appliances which could move enough to rupture gas lines or damage electrical cables. These can be securely fastened. Longer, flexible gas connectors and electrical cords long enough to allow for movement should be installed - but only by qualified personnel.
Electronic Appliances	Look for electronic equipment, like stereos, televisions, computers, or appliances, (like microwave ovens, which may slide off shelves or out of cabinets. Secure with double-sided tape, Velcro fasteners, or put restraining edges on the cabinets or shelves.
Counter-top Cooking Appliances	 Look for counter top appliances which generate heat (like toasters, coffeepots or bread makers). Put restraining edges on cabinets or shelves. Do not use tape or Velcro - the glue will melt.
Cabinets	 Look for latches on kitchen, bathroom and storage cabinets which would not hold doors closed during heavy shaking. These can be secured with hooks or better latches.
Utility Shut Offs	 Know where your gas, electric and water shut offs are located. Everyone should know how to turn off the utilities in case of a leak or problem. Make sure that the gas and water valves are not rusted or stuck shut. If they are, call a professional. Keep a suitable wrench close to the gas meter.

Foundations	 Inspect the foundations of your home. Walls must be securely bolted to the foundations - If they are not, consider having this done. An unbolted structure may move off its foundation during an earthquake.
Chimneys and Roofs	 Check your chimney and roof for loose tiles and bricks. Remove or replace tiles as necessary and strengthen the roof around the chimney.
Toxic Chemicals	 Look for poisons, toxins, or solvents in breakable containers which are located in high or dangerous locations. These can be moved to a safe, well-ventilated storage area. Make sure they are kept away from emergency water and out of reach of children or pets. Check with Provincial Waste Management for information about safe storage.
Trees in the Yard	 Old leaning trees can fall during earthquakes. Check for signs of root rot or other damage. Trees in close proximity to the house can be a fire hazard. Consider pruning or removal.
Local Hazards	Look for hazards outside your home, such as overhead wires or stream banks that may not be stable. You may not be able to do anything about these hazards but you and your family should be aware that they exist.