

MAKING YOUR HOME MORE RESILIENT IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER

Know your Risks

The location, design specifications, and resilience of the materials used, all contribute to your homes ability to withstand natural hazards. Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your homes vulnerability to earthquake, storm surge, flooding and wind.

Components of a home are typically divided into two categories:

Structural elements: those essential elements that determine the overall safety such as the roof, beams, columns, slabs, load-bearing walls, braces or foundations.

Non-structural elements: all other elements that enable the home to operate. These include elements such as the water heater, air conditioning unit, appliances, shelving and cabinets.

Take Precautions

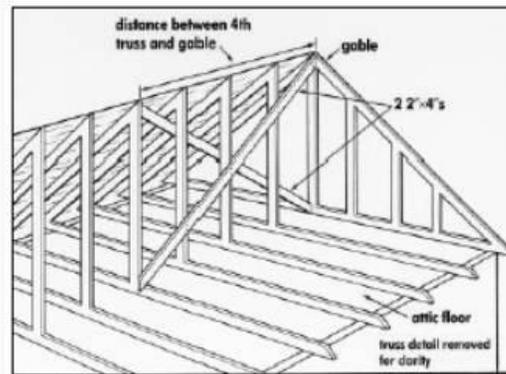
Make sure you have a working smoke detector (regularly check the batteries) and a fire extinguisher. Fire Extinguishers must be serviced regularly.

Identify the Safest Area in Your House

Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home in the event of an earthquake or a hurricane hazard. In most cases this will be the innermost room with no windows or outside walls.

Check Roof Structure

Consider having an experienced builder or engineer to check your roof and if necessary do the repairs, it is worth the investment. A strong roof should be reinforced with hurricane straps. These straps anchor the wood frame of the roof to the walls.



Example of gable bracing

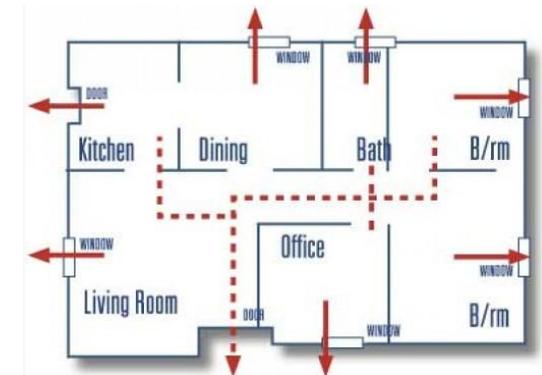
If you have a gable-end roof, make sure it is properly braced at the ends. If it is not then attach 2x4 or 2x6 planks to the gable ends at right angles to the truss system. Screws, not nails should be used to attach the braces because they are harder to pull loose.

Check Double Entry Doors

These doors can be a weak point. Secure the inactive door to the header and thresholds by adding reinforcing pins to the top and bottom of the door as well as adding heavier hinges and more secure locks. Exit doors should open outwards

Family House Plan

Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.



Determine escape routes from your home and decide on a place to meet if you get separated in a disaster. Practice evacuating your home at night.

Trim Trees

Ask yourself, if any large trees blew over would they be likely to hit your home?

Shutters

Install storm shutters or purchase pre-cut 5/8 inch outdoor plywood boards for each window of your home. Install anchors in the plywood and pre-drill holes in the wood so you can put the boards up quickly. (Taping windows does not prevent them from breaking so it is not recommended).



Utility Shut Offs

Show family members the location of the electrical circuit box and the shut off valve for the water entering the house. Label utility shut offs and show family members how to turn them off.

Insurance

Check your insurance coverage and update if needed - flood damage is not always covered by homeowners insurance.

Earthquakes

Protect your home check for hazards in the home.

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- *Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.*
- For the kitchen: Use latches, such as those used for baby-proofing, to secure cabinets and drawers. Secure the refrigerator and microwave with nylon straps with peel and stick application.
- Keep heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves.
- Close blinds or drapes each night to prevent broken glass from flying into the room.

HAZARD MANAGEMENT CAYMAN ISLANDS

***MAKING HOMES
SAFER***

Preparing for All Hazards



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