

Home Hazard Hunt

LOOKING OUT FOR HOME HAZARDS

Water Heater†

- Secure your water heater to the wall.
- Contact BC Hydro or a professional for more information.

Gas Appliances‡

- Secure any gas appliances such as your stove or clothes dryer to a wall stud. If these objects move or topple, the resulting gas leak could destroy your home.
- Longer, flexible gas connectors and electrical cords long enough to allow for movement should be installed, but only by qualified personnel.

Major Appliances†

- Secure the top and bottom of your refrigerator with plumber's tape or perforated metal strapping.
- Contact the manufacturer regarding bolting free-standing, wood-burning stoves to the floor.

Furniture on Wheels

- Items such as stereo stands and portable dishwashers can become large moving projectiles which could cause serious damage. If you must use castors or glides on appliances, lock the wheels or place a wedge under the front wheels to keep them from sliding or overturning.

Tall Furniture

- Secure top-heavy, free-standing furniture (like bookcases or china cabinets) using commercially available devices. Anything over a metre high could be a problem.

Heavy Objects

- Move heavy, breakable or valuable objects from high shelves or cabinets to lower locations, or attach a wooden or metal guardrail to open shelves to keep items from sliding off.

Electronic Appliances†

- Secure electronic equipment like stereos, televisions, computers or microwave ovens, which may slide off shelves.
- Use double-sided tape or velcro fasteners, or put restraining edges on the cabinets or shelves.

Mirrors & Pictures

- Move mirrors and heavily-framed pictures which are placed over beds, couches or exits.

† Home safety tips involving appliances, water and electricity found at: www.bcydro.com/safety

‡ Home safety tips involving gas found at: www.fortisbc.com

Windows

- Window glass may shatter and fly across a room. Consider replacing glass with safety glass or adding a protective film.
 - Locate beds away from windows.
 - Secure hanging lamps and plants near windows by closing the opening on their hook with lock wire. Make sure the hook is screwed into a ceiling stud.
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Cabinets

- Make sure latches on kitchen, bathroom and workroom cabinets will hold in heavy shaking. To prevent cabinet doors from flying open, install a latch operated by a pull-back mechanism or turn-handle. Put heavy items on the bottom shelves.
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Toxic Chemicals

- Move poisons, toxins or solvents in breakable containers from high or dangerous locations to a lower, well-ventilated storage area, behind a guardrail or in a cabinet. Make sure they are kept away from emergency water and out of reach of children or pets.
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Chimneys & Roofs

- Inspect your chimney and roof for loose tiles and bricks. Remove or replace tiles as necessary and strengthen the roof around the chimney.
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Foundation

- If you are in a house, ensure that it is firmly secured to the foundation.
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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.
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Local Hazards

- Identify 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.

For more information, go to: **vancouver.ca/nepp**
or contact the Office of Emergency Management at
nepp@vancouver.ca or call **311**

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