



Earthquakes occur in Australia almost every day. Most of them are too small for us to feel but larger earthquakes are powerful enough to cause significant damage to buildings and roads and endanger lives. To help you and your family stay safe and protect your property in the event of an earthquake you should have a household action plan.

If you have damage to your home from an earthquake, call us on 1300 552 662 to lodge your claim. Alternatively submit a claim online at www.dsh.gov.au or email us at dsh@dva.gov.au.

-  **CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN** - You can find a guide on the [Australian Red Cross](http://www.redcross.org.au) website to help you make an Emergency Plan. Make sure everyone knows the plan and whether you will stay or evacuate. Decide what the trigger will be to evacuate. Check your insurance policies and make plans for pets or livestock.
-  **KNOW THE SAFE SPOTS TO SHELTER INDOORS** - If inside, drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy table or other heavy furniture, hold on until the shaking stops. If there is nothing to shelter under, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch beside a bench or in an inside corner of the building.
-  **DO NOT USE DOORWAYS TO SHELTER** - Unless you know a doorway is a strongly supported, load bearing doorway and it is close to you, do not use it. Many inside doorways are lightly constructed and do not offer protection.
-  **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS** - Be aware that you may lose power and sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on. It is not safe to use elevators.
-  **STAY CLEAR OF HAZARDS** - Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls and anything that could fall such as large free-standing cabinet units, large televisions, wall units or heavy lighting fixtures as they could fall and cause injury. Items could fall from cabinets and cause injury.
-  **STAY INSIDE UNTIL SHAKING STOPS** - Do not go outside until shaking has stopped and it is safe to do so. Do not exit a building while there is still shaking. Most injuries occur when people inside buildings try to leave or move to a different location within a building.
-  **IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE DURING AN EARTHQUAKE** - Stay where you are until shaking has stopped. Keep clear of buildings, streetlights and power-lines. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, exits and along exterior walls.
-  **KNOW HOW TO TURN OFF SERVICES** - Check your home for damage after the earthquake. Turn off electricity, gas and water and check whether they have been affected. Check for cracks and damage to your home's floors. Walls and ceilings. Evacuate if the building is badly damaged.
-  **EXPECT AFTERSHOCKS** - Aftershocks may not be as powerful but can cause further damage. Open cabinets carefully, objects may have moved and could fall on you.
-  **IF YOU ARE TRAPPED UNDER DEBRIS** - Do not light a match, there may be flammable vapours or gas. Do not move around or kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing. Tap on a pipe or wall or call out so rescuers can locate you.