

# EARTHQUAKE

## CAUSED BY THE SHIFTING OF TECTONIC PLATES BENEATH THE EARTH'S SURFACE...

An earthquake is a release of energy that can cause seconds- or minutes-long tremors resulting in the shaking we feel.

Small earthquakes occur hundreds of times a day across the world, but they don't often cause damage and most times go undetected. The earthquakes we often think of are large, topography-changing 6.0+-magnitude earthquakes that can instantly disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands.

**1) Expect aftershocks.** An aftershock is a mini earthquake following the initial major shock. Aftershocks can sometimes cause other disasters, like tsunamis if the epicenter of the quake is on the sea or ocean floor. If you live on an island or a coastal area and have experienced an earthquake, consider moving to higher ground to keep safe.

**2) Check yourself and those around you for injuries.** If you are able, help as much as possible. Do not move injured people unless they will be in danger if they remain where they are.

**3) Expert items to have shifted.** Objects on tables, shelves or in closets will have likely shifted during the earthquake. Exercise caution in moving about to avoid injury from fallen objects.

**4) Stay away or remove yourself from damaged buildings.** Buildings, especially those that are not designed with earthquake standards in mind, can be susceptible to damage from an earthquake. Structural damage, broken glass and falling materials can pose significant risks to those inside and nearby. If you suspect your building may have sustained damage during an earthquake, evacuate the building and move away from it until authorities can inspect it.

**5) If your home is unlivable, relocate to a local shelter.** Don't take the risk. If you feel like your home has become unstable or if you notice structural damage like large cracks in the walls or foundation, seek shelter in a safe location.

**6) Check your utilities for damage.** Water pipes and gas and electrical lines are all susceptible to damage. Keep an eye out for broken water pipes, downed and live electrical lines and leaking gas lines. Gas leaks often cause fires to break out after an earthquake. If you smell gas, exit the premises as quickly as possible and call your local gas authority.

**7) Check your home for structural damage/remember to:** Never light a fire inside your home; Keep the roads clear for emergency vehicles and only drive your vehicle if necessary; Evacuate the area if you smell gas or other chemical fumes; Turn on the radio for updates.

Need help restoring your home after an earthquake or other natural disaster? Choose Rainbow International. Our technicians are standing by 24/7 to help you recover after any disaster, big or small. Call (855) 724 6269 for 24/7 disaster restoration.

**Choose Rainbow International for Help Recovering After Any Disaster.**

