



## Brace water heater

### Why

- ▶ Prevents water heaters from sliding or overturning, causing damage to the gas and water connections and lines.
- ▶ Reduces the potential for water damage, gas leaks, and fires.

### How

- ▶ Anchor the water heater to the wall with flexible water and gas connectors to prevent dislodgement, broken pipes, and gas leaks.
- ▶ Use a water heater bracing kit or place straps within the height of the upper one-third and lower two-thirds of the water heater.
- ▶ Use galvanized steel hanger straps of 24 gauge or thicker, noting that the higher the gauge number, the thinner the metal.

### How to Identify

- ▶ Look for metal straps securing the heater to wall studs, typically two straps—one at the top and one at the bottom.
- ▶ Check that the straps are tight and bolted properly. Also, look for flexible water and gas connections.
- ▶ An experienced, licensed retrofit contractor or engineer can evaluate conditions and recommend improvements.