



Reinforce cripple walls and crawl spaces

Why

- ▶ Prevents the house sliding off cripple walls, the buckling and collapse of cripple walls, the house sliding off the foundation, and/or building collapse.

How

- ▶ Cripple walls are relatively short wood stud framed walls placed from the top of a foundation to the underside of the first framed floor. Cripple walls often surround an uninhabited crawl space.
- ▶ Inadequately braced cripple walls can be improved by adding sill plate anchorage to the foundation and wood structural panel shear wall sheathing to the existing cripple walls.

How to Identify

- ▶ Inspect your crawl space or basement for short stud walls with plywood sheathing, foundation bolts, metal brackets, or straps connecting framing to the foundation.
- ▶ An experienced, licensed retrofit contractor or engineer can assess conditions and recommend improvements.
- ▶ Check for retrofit records, inspection reports, and permits.