



Secure bookcases and heavy furniture

Why

- ▶ Prevents tipping that can cause serious injury, block exits, or damage walls and floors during an earthquake.

How

- ▶ Anchor bookcases, dressers, and other tall or heavy furniture to wall studs using metal brackets, straps, or furniture anchors.
- ▶ Relocate bookcases, file cabinets, and other large pieces of furniture away from exits so they can't block escape from the home.
- ▶ Consider connecting two or more bookcases or file cabinets that sit

next to each other to one another and the wall. This can increase the stability of the bookcases or file cabinets.

- ▶ Install guardrail options to help block the contents of your bookcases from falling. Clearing the top of bookcases or other furniture of heavy items can protect against them falling and causing injuries.
- ▶ Furniture can be anchored with metal "L" brackets and screws along its top or sides with screws through its back or with nylon strapping. Ensure anchoring screws penetrate not just the wall, but the studs behind it too. Before

anchoring a bookcase with screws through its back, ensure the back is sturdy and securely attached to the sides, top, and bottom. Bookcases with backs made with very thin material and connected with small screws or staples should be anchored with brackets.

How to Identify

- ▶ Look for freestanding furniture—especially near beds, seating areas, or escape routes.
- ▶ A home earthquake safety list or consultation with a seismic safety professional can help spot risks and identify solutions.