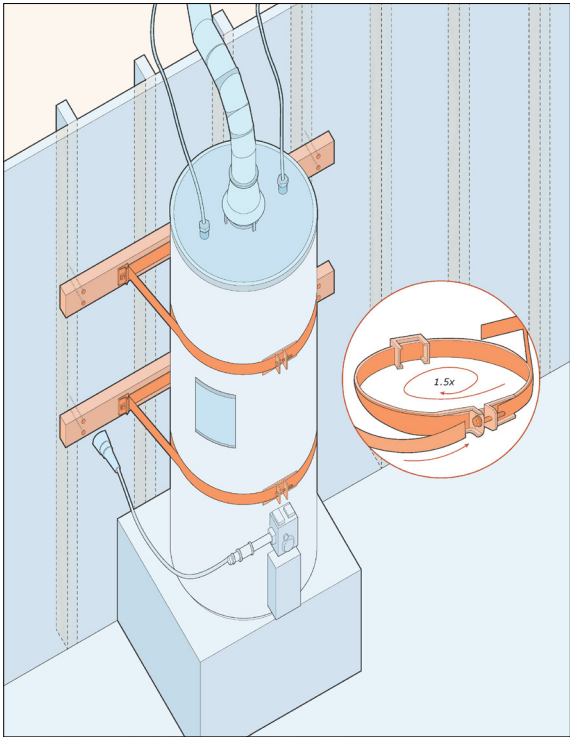


Secure Your Water Heater



EarthquakeCountry.org/step1

Secure Your Water Heater

An unbraced water heater can topple over during an earthquake, causing gas and water leaks, and even fires. Use a strap kit or bracing kit from your local hardware store to secure your water heater.

- First, check that your gas and water pipes have flexible connectors. Ask a plumber to replace these if needed.
- Prevent the tank from tipping backwards by making sure it is within 2" of the wall. If necessary, reduce a larger gap by attaching a wooden block to the vertical "studs" within the wall behind the water heater (use a stud finder to determine where to screw).
- Purchase a special kit with metal straps at a hardware store or online. Place each strap as shown in the image; start at the back of the tank, bring each strap to the front and then back to the wall.
- Connect each strap to wall studs (or the wood block) using screws provided in the kit. If securing into concrete, use 1/4" expansion bolts.

