

## Securing Tall Furnishings and Their Contents



Objects on open shelves, bookcases and tables tend to “walk” or slide during an earthquake or to become “missiles” that fly across the room if the shaking is violent.

Install barriers to restrict movement and/or use special putties, nonskid shelf liner, nonskid rings, tapes or adhesives. Or, try large patches (4”x5”) of Velcro-glued with appropriate adhesive to bottom of object and top of cabinet.

Place valuable breakables in secure places, even have customized, tight fitting glass or plastic enclosures made that can be secured to shelves if object is of great value.

Top heavy vases, lamps, or sculptures can be weighted with beanbags or old socks filled with sand or lead shot. They can also be secured with monofilament fishing line or thin wire. Don’t forget to anchor supporting pedestals or cabinets.

Electronic gear (computers, typewriters, TV, stereo, etc.) should be restrained by fastening it directly to the surface on which it is mounted or by tethering devices such as “Thumb Lock” or “Quake Grip” Velcro fasteners.

Things that hang from the ceiling (fans, light fixtures, plants, etc.) should be checked to be sure they are firmly attached to ceiling joists or beams, not just supported by sheetrock.

Avoid placing items in locations where they can become projectiles during an earthquake (such as flower pots, books, bookends, toasters, mixers and various items on top of cabinets in the kitchen and utility room).

Keep heavy, unstable items away from exit routes, or ensure they are properly anchored or secured.

Do not place heavy, sharp or breakable objects above head height any place in the house.