

## June

### SUPPLIES:

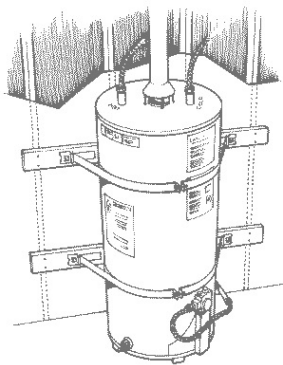
- Paper goods (plates, napkins, etc.)
- Face masks, goggles, hard hats
- + 1 day of food, water and cash

### TASKS:

- Secure your water heater and furniture



### SECURING YOUR WATER HEATER

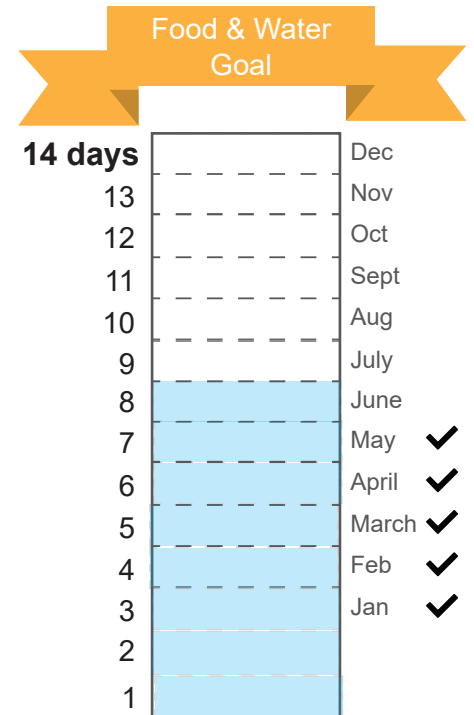


Water heaters can move or tip over if not securely anchored to the wall or floor. For a small investment of time and money, you can avoid spilling gallons of precious water that could be useful in an emergency.

Purchase and install a strap or bracing kit from your local hardware store, or have a licensed plumber strap your water heater according to code.

**PRO TIP:** Anchor wall units, dressers, bookshelves, TVs and other heavy furniture to the wall to protect occupants, help prevent toppled items from blocking exits, and mitigate damage.

Visit [eweb.org/emergencyprep](http://eweb.org/emergencyprep) and check out the FEMA Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt for recommendations on reducing earthquake hazards in your home.



Keep building on your water, food and cash. Continue to prioritize non-perishable, high protein, easy-to-prepare items like canned foods, nuts, and dried fruits.

One day of water = 1 gallon/person.



In an earthquake, you could encounter falling debris, dust and piles of rubble. Include some basic safety gear in your kit, such as:

- Hard hat
- Eye protection
- Dust mask
- Gloves

# Accessing water from your water heater in an emergency

## Step 1: Turn off your home's water supply

Taking this step, especially after a big earthquake, could help ensure that the water remains in your tank, and that it isn't compromised. In most homes, emergency water shut off valves are found in the basement, crawlspace, garage or outside the home's foundation. Locate your shut off valve before an emergency, so you'll know how to access it quickly if needed.

## Step 2: Turn off your water heater's power source

This is an important safety step. For electric water heaters, shut off the power by flipping the correct switch on your electrical panel. For natural gas water heaters, visit [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com) for information on earthquake preparedness and important safety measures.

## Step 3: Turn off your water heater's water supply

Locate the water shut-off valve and turn it clockwise until it stops. This valve is typically located on the top of the unit.

## Step 4: Let air into your water heater

You can do this by opening the relief valve located on the side of the tank (flip the handle so that it sticks straight up or out), or by turning on hot water spigots in the main living area or upstairs in your home. This will help release water from your water heater.

## Step 5: Locate the drain valve at the bottom of the tank and release water

Place a clean container under the drain valve spigot to capture water and turn the spigot or screw of your tank's drain valve to the left. Wear gloves and eye protection and be careful as the water may be very hot.

## Step 6: Treat or filter any water that you use for drinking, cooking or hygiene

Water from your hot water heater can be used for sanitation purposes. In extreme emergencies when other sources of purified drinking water are not available, you may use water from your hot water heater for drinking, cooking or hygiene after following these steps:

- Boil water for at least one minute, or
- Put water in a sanitized container and treat with unscented chlorine bleach (1/8 teaspoon of bleach per gallon of water), or
- Use a personal water filter, making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

**For more information on accessing water from your water heater and tips on storing and treating water, check out the Regional Water Providers Consortium at [regionalh2o.org/emergency-preparedness](http://regionalh2o.org/emergency-preparedness).**