

ECO-MY-QUAKE



I've learned that being eco-conscious makes you a survivalist by default, and that survival is more fun than the alternative. And, just in case all those earthquake experts with their scientific based predictions are right, maybe it's time we took all this future-proofing stuff to the next level – which is why the Sustainability Office is planning to hold an Eco Survival Week at the university from October 11-15, with workshops including gardening, permaculture, cooking, and a uni-wide clothes swap. See www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ for more info.

PRESERVING WHAT YOU'VE GOT

By Sharon McIver

- Backpack:** Have one packed with essential supplies in case you have to get out in a hurry.
- Bathroom:** Use old cake tins to pack toiletries into so that they are less likely to fall and shatter. Secure loose mirrors and shelving.
- Bolt Hole:** Create a couple of spaces around the house where you know you would feel safe. Leave some blankets, and cushions nearby (cold wooden floors are not comfortable). In your bedroom find a secure nook that you can reach easily and stock it with water, torch, first-aid etc., and get into the habit of putting keys and phone there overnight.
- Bookcases:** Pack tightly with heaviest items on bottom shelves. Remove loose shelving and secure to wall with brackets. Wedge larger books under bottom shelf to provide extra stability.
- Cellphones:** Keep well charged and topped up. Put somewhere safe at night. Have an alternative means of charging (car/solar etc.).
- Chilly Bins:** Keep coolers in the freezer, and have ready to pack.
- Clothing:** If you have excess clothing, pack some of them into a suitcase or backpack, along with a few other essentials and leave within grabbing distance.
- Computers:** Turn off at wall – surges when the power comes on can be deadly. Keep laptops charged.
- Cupboards:** Ensure they shut properly and secure if necessary. Pack things tightly into shelving so that there is little movement.
- Documents:** Keep the important stuff together in something that is easy to grab and carry.
- Doors:** If you lock them at night keep the key either in the lock, or close by.
- Drawers:** Useful for small glassware as they can be packed tightly.
- Filing Cabinet:** Place heaviest files in bottom drawer and keep locked to ensure drawers stay shut.
- Fridge/Freezer:** Keep tightly packed with doors secured. If you have to defrost, eat the frozen food quickly and chilly bin the rest.

- Gas Cooker/Barbeque/Heater:** Ensure that gas bottles are kept topped up and use only with enough ventilation. Put with rest of emergency supplies somewhere accessible.
- Hoarders:** If you're someone who hates throwing stuff out, you may come into your own during a disaster, but do ensure that the supplies are well secured.
- House:** preferably wooden, single storey, without a chimney and built on land not subject to liquefaction.
- Landline:** Have at least one phone in the house that does not require electricity.
- Landlord:** Try and find one that understands how important upkeep is, and who cares enough to ensure that repairs are made quickly when necessary.
- Loved Ones:** Grab them if they're there, or work out a system for checking on each other. Have a book with numbers, addresses etc. in case your phone is inaccessible.
- Rain:** Either fit rainwater collection tanks to down-pipes or collect in crates off shed roofs etc. and use for garden/cooking/washing.
- Solar Shower:** Brilliant for heating water for dishes.
- Suitcases:** Old vinyl suitcases are dry, rat-proof and easily moveable, and can be used to store virtually anything that would normally go in boxes. The advantage in an earthquake is that they can be packed tightly into most storage spaces.
- Torches:** Consider torches that are solar/dynamo powered. Some rechargeable torches come with car adaptors.
- Transport:** Park your bike/car/van in a place where you can get it out easily, and maybe keep a bag of essential supplies in/on it, just in case you're in transit.
- Water:** Choose refillable bottles when buying anything liquid and fill empties with water. Store in plastic or wooden crates or old drawers and place on floor under sturdy tables/shelves. Keep filled plastic bottles in a recycling bag for easy access and carrying. Remember to empty and refill often.

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