The State of California requires that all water heaters in our area be anchored or strapped to resist movement during an earthquake. This can be accomplished by installing any of the over-the-counter products especially made for restraining water heaters (Example 1) or you can make your own out of a heavy-duty metal strap material (Example 2).

It is required that at least two restraints are used, with one in the upper one-third and one in the lower one-third of the water heater. Fasten the anchor or strap to the structure, use a screw not less than 1/4" diameter with a minimum penetration of 1 1/2" into a wood stud of the wall, with a washer between the head of the screw and the restraint.

Below are examples of acceptable methods for restraining a water heater.

**Note:** A permit is required any time a water heater is replaced.