

Vocabulary: Earthquake-Proof Homes



Vocabulary

- **Base isolation** – a type of foundation designed to keep a building from shaking in an earthquake.
 - A base isolation foundation has three parts.
 - The bottom layer shakes with the ground.
 - The top layer and building do not shake.
 - The two layers are connected by rubber pads, springs, or sliders that allow the top and bottom layers to move separately.
- **Bedrock** – solid rock underneath soil.
- **Earthquake** – a sudden shaking of the ground.
 - Large earthquakes can damage buildings, roads, and bridges.
- **Fault** – a crack between two sections of bedrock.
 - Earthquakes happen when the bedrock on either side of a fault moves.
- **Foundation** – the base of a building.
- **Foundation clips** – metal brackets that attach the house to the foundation.
- **Frame** – the “skeleton” that supports a house.
- **Landfill** – a wetland that people fill with soil to make dry land.
 - Many parts of San Francisco are built on landfill.
- **Liquify** – act like a liquid.
 - During an earthquake, landfill areas may liquify. Houses in these areas may fall down or sink into the ground.
- **Natural disaster** – a natural event that causes major destruction or death.
 - Examples of natural disasters include earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and fires.
 - Natural disasters are not caused by people.
- **Reinforced door** – a door that is made stronger by using materials like steel.
- **Shatterproof glass** – glass that is made more flexible by adding layers of plastic.
- **Wetland** – an area where shallow water covers the ground, such as a swamp or marsh.



House with a base isolation foundation