

Apartment and Condominium Disaster Readiness

The helpful information contained in this pamphlet is for everyone!
Please take a look inside!



Approximately nine million Tokyo residents live in multi-unit residential buildings such as apartment buildings. If your building meets seismic codes and sustains only minor damage in an earthquake, it will be possible to shelter in place or remain in your apartment or condominium, rather than evacuating to a shelter or another location. To ensure that residents can continue to stay in their homes following a disaster, it is necessary for both individual households and the building as a whole to prepare.

“Mutual support,” where apartment and condominium residents and non-residents work together to support each other, is also vital. Apartment and condominium residents are encouraged to participate in disaster preparedness activities as members of the local community.



The moment a major earthquake strikes

What happens when a powerful earthquake strikes?

- Some people lose their balance and fall, furniture and household appliances topple over, and items stored on shelves or in cabinets fly out and scatter across the room.
- Elevators stop, sometimes trapping the occupants inside. Lack of elevator service also makes movement between the ground level and higher floors difficult.

Long-period ground motion

When long-period ground motion occurs, brought on by earthquakes with a long "period" (the time associated with a single shake), the slow, significant swaying motion generated in high-rise buildings is expected to cause furniture to fall over, among other damage.



What to do in the event of a major earthquake: Play an active role in protecting yourself and others

Individual households

- **Protect yourself and your family first.**

Protect yourself from furniture that shifts or topples over, among other hazards. If you are on the elevator, press the button for every floor and get off at the first floor it stops at.

- **Notify others of your safety and verify the safety of neighbors.**

Following the rules set forth by your apartment or condominium building, inform others regarding your safety and verify the safety of neighbors. Check on the safety of residents who may require assistance, such as elderly residents, by knocking on their door or talking with them.

- **Consider whether you should stay in your home or evacuate to another location.**

For multi-unit residential buildings, such as apartment and condominium buildings that meet seismic codes, the risk of collapse is low, making it possible for residents to shelter in place.



All building residents

- **Utilize common areas for disaster response.**

In times of disaster, common areas of the building can be used as places to sort relief supplies or as waiting areas for use by residents while the elevator is shutdown, among others.

- **Share vital information and divide up tasks among fellow residents.**

Residents should divide up tasks, including communicating important information, delivery of relief supplies, cleaning up, anti-crime patrols, and checking on those who may require assistance, to overcome this difficult time together.

- **Coordinate with evacuation centers to better support those sheltering in place**

Contact the nearest evacuation center to exchange information on matters such as post-quake damage, the number of evacuees, and methods of communicating information, and coordinate with the local community.

- **Cooperate with local support activities carried out by neighborhood associations, etc.**

Apartment and condominium residents are also members of the local community. Please help out when various situations arise. For example, please offer your support when there is a shortage of manpower at the evacuation center.



地域の支援活動に
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Things to be aware of when sheltering in place

Do not flush the toilet.

The flushing of a toilet by a resident on an upper floor who is unaware that sewage pipes have been damaged could result in sewage leaking into to the units below or sewage backing up. Do not flush the toilet until the integrity of sewage pipes has been confirmed. In the meantime, please use emergency portable toilets or toilet kits.



Do not use the elevator.

Use the emergency stairs until the elevator can be inspected, as there is the risk of the elevator coming to an emergency stop due to mechanical trouble or a power outage, resulting in the occupants becoming trapped. In the event you do become trapped, use the emergency intercom and wait for help to arrive.

For details, see Disaster Readiness Guide: Prepare Yourself and Your Family, page 65.

Steps that individual households can take now.

- Prepare all of the essential items that you and the other members of your household need to shelter in place, such as a one-week supply of food and water.
- Prepare a supply of emergency portable toilets and/or toilet kits.
- Make sure that you have taken the proper safety measures in your apartment or condominium (i.e., confirmed the safety of rooms, given thought to the positioning of furniture, taken steps to prevent furniture from shifting or toppling over).
- Make sure that you know the location of equipment such as fire extinguishers and fire hydrants, as well as initial firefighting techniques.
- Install devices such as an earthquake-tripped circuit breaker.



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For those living in rental units

If you wish to take steps to prevent furniture from shifting or falling over, please be aware that restrictions may apply to furniture stabilization methods. To avoid any issues, it is recommended that you first confirm the matter with the management company in charge of your rental unit or your landlord. Even in buildings where there is no autonomous disaster prevention organization or other such group, residents must respond on their own immediately following a disaster. In addition to establishing systems for communication, centered on the management company, it is also important to get to know your neighbors by exchanging greetings with them regularly.



Mutual support to ensure that everyone survives

In terms of multi-unit residential building such as condominiums, when a disaster strikes, it is important that the entire building works together to respond. This includes management associations, autonomous disaster prevention organizations, and other such groups.

Steps that entire condominium buildings can take now.



Confirming building equipment and establishing rules for dealing with various situations are effective in preparing for a disaster. This includes confirming procedures for emergency elevator restoration, procedures for checking sewer pipes, and methods of sharing information.

- Disaster preparedness is sufficiently promoted through posters, etc.
- I have regular face-to-face relationships with my neighbors.
- The space for disaster response in case of an emergency has been decided
- The management association also has sufficient stockpiles
- Materials and equipment such as fire extinguishers, generators, and carts are prepared
- As preparation for elevator outages, emergency supplies storerooms are placed on every few floors
- A safety device is installed in the elevators
- A disaster preparedness manual has been created and shared among residents
- Disaster preparedness drills are held regularly
- A voluntary disaster response team has been formed
- A residents' list and a list of persons requiring consideration are maintained



For details, see Disaster Readiness Guide: Prepare Yourself and Your Family, page 71.

Tokyo Todomaru Mansion Information Registry and Viewing System

Information on condominiums and other such multifamily residences that make it easier for residents to remain in their homes even under difficult circumstances such as a power outage caused by a disaster is registered and made available to the public.

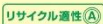


Supporting each other as part of the local community

It is important that residents engage in face-to-face interactions by exchanging greetings and talking with each other. It is also important to organize a neighborhood association. Furthermore, efforts such as coordination with other neighborhood associations in the area will also help everyone to better function in times of disaster.



For details, see Disaster Readiness Guide: Prepare Yourself and Your Family, page 72.



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