



**CITY OF CORONADO**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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**City of Coronado Public Handout #1**  
**WATER HEATER BRACING**

**Purpose:** Ensure stability of water heaters during a seismic event.

**Authority:** 2010 California Plumbing Code – Section 508.2

In seismic zones 3 and 4, water heaters shall be anchored or strapped to resist horizontal displacement due to earthquake motion. Strapping shall be at points within the upper-third (1/3) and lower one-third (1/3) of its vertical dimensions. At the lower point, a minimum distance of four (4) inches shall be maintained above the controls with the strapping.

- Notes:**
1. For bracing to a concrete, concrete block, or brick wall consult bracing strap manufacturer's specific installation instructions.
  2. Water heater bracing straps are available in the plumbing section of all major home improvement and hardware stores.
  3. Water heaters in garages and other locations are often placed on platforms which are approximately 18" off the floor. A check should be made to ensure the platform is anchored to the floor or walls of the structure.
  4. Insulating blankets, if used, should be applied after installation of seismic strapping.

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