

Prepping your Kitchen for an Earthquake 1

By: My Earthquake Preparedness Partner – Diane Koster

If you have children of a certain age, you may already have kid-proof latches on your doors – especially the ones at the children’s eye level. Door latches turn out to be one of the easiest ways to stop the damage in your kitchen.

See, kitchens are usually the one area where I recommend that you GET OUT OF THERE!! when the shaking starts. Refrigerators walk across floors, cabinets open and empty their contents, AND gas lines and water lines may break. The disaster turns your kitchen into its own disaster area. Broken glass and china, liquids combining under dubious circumstances... the list goes on.



This picture of a kitchen after an earthquake comes from Threezly.com. The fridge and drawers opened; cabinets emptied. The hanging cups and the Cuisinart stayed put. (The machine probably had rubber feet.) There are some simple things that can be done to save you from some of the losses and the cleaning up.

Clearly, one of the easiest ways to save the kitchen mess is to keep the cabinets from opening. This requires that you get USED TO USING these methods.



Things will still shift behind the closed doors, but it’s possible to open a door a little way to see what *might* fall and to reach in to push it back. Even if some things fall then, they won’t have had free access to the whole kitchen! Simple latches could mean a lot.

I personally use the rubber band method. In fact, on my nicer buffet with hutch, I use a cloth-covered scrunchy band (for hair) that looks as attractive as it can, given the circumstances! My sister, who came to visit, had trouble, at first, reclosing the rubber bands over the door handles, but after a couple of days, she’d gotten used to them. So will you!

Search for the above under: “Cabinet and Door Latches”
“Cabinet Locks Child Safety” “Safety first custom latches”
“Cabinet Locks for Knobs”

Also – check RV stores for options. Driving on bumpy roads, making wide turns... you’d want everything to stay put!