

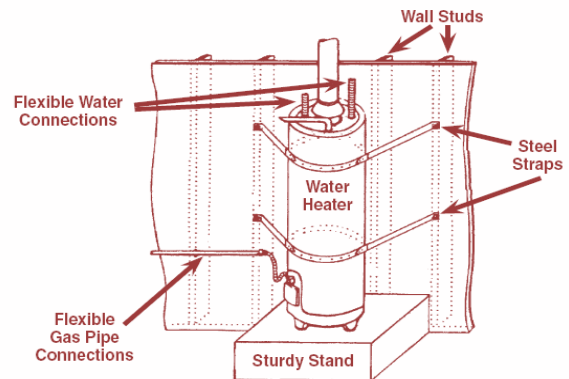


FACT SHEET

Secure your water heater to minimize damage during a disaster.

Securing a water heater

- Mark your water heater at the front center, about one-third of the way down from the top and approximately one-third of the way up from the bottom.
- Be sure that the bottom mark is at least 4 inches above the water controls.
- Secure the water heater with two 16- to 20-gauge, pre-drilled steel straps at the points you've marked (see diagram).
- If you place the water heater on a pedestal, you must secure the pedestal to the wall or floor to keep it from moving out from under the water heater.
- For more information on securing your water heater, contact your local emergency management office or utility.



Getting water from a water heater

- The water heater, if strapped properly, can be used as a backup source of drinking water in addition to the water you have already stored for emergencies.
- To get water out of your water heater when the water is turned off, you will need to turn off the gas or electric supply to the heater.
- Open a faucet located in the highest point of your home and then open the faucet at the bottom of the water heater. This allows the water to gravity-feed from the tank.
- The water that first comes from the tank may be full of rust and other deposits. This is normal for a water heater that has been in a home for a few years. Discard the discolored water. When the water becomes clear, it should be safe to drink.
- If there is any question as to water purity — purify it ([See "Purifying Household Water"](#)).