

# 2020 Disaster Prevention Handbook for Housing Complexes: Earthquakes (Overview)

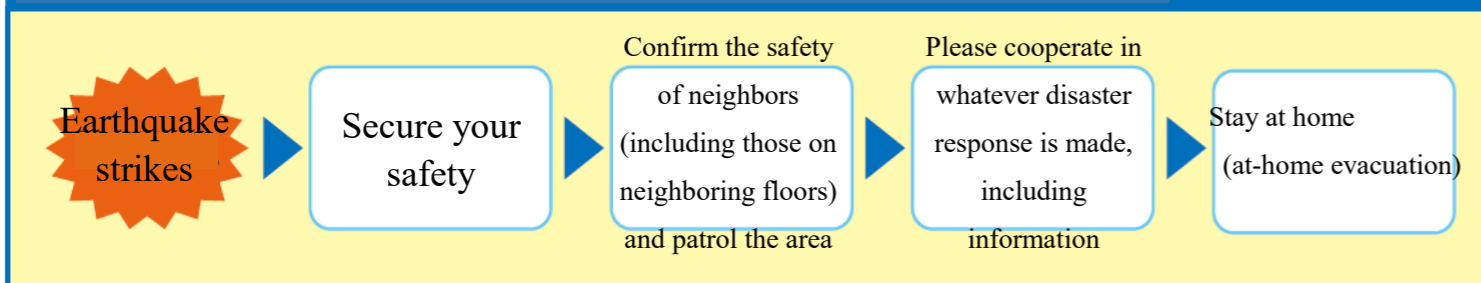
If your home is undamaged, you can simply do an “at-home evacuation,” continuing to live in your place rather than going to an evacuation center.

Apartment buildings are unlikely to collapse even in a major earthquake. Make adequate preparations so that you can continue living at home after an earthquake strikes. This is far preferable to going to an evacuation center, which is a temporary living place for people whose houses have collapsed or burned due to a disaster. There may also be problems regarding toilets, privacy, healthcare and hygiene at evacuation centers, so if there are no problems with your home, stay there and wait for lifelines to be restored.

To make an at-home evacuation possible, you need to make your home safe and stockpile drinking water, food and emergency toilets.

It is also vital for neighbors to help each other in times of disaster. In particular, communicate with neighbors on the same floor on a regular basis so that you can quickly confirm their safety and help each other in a disaster.

## Flow of evacuation for apartment residents when an earthquake strikes



Notes:

1. The first rule of evacuation for people living in houses is to assemble at a meeting area such as a park. Apartment-dwellers, however, can stay within the building, since elevator stoppages make traveling difficult and at-home evacuation is generally a good option.
2. During a disaster, residents should cooperate with local community associations. Representatives of the complex (board members, etc.) should inform community association board members at evacuation centers or other locations that their building is safe and that residents are taking the at-home evacuation option.

## If at-home evacuation is not possible

If your home is damaged or there is a risk of fire spreading, evacuate to one of the following places according to your situation.

Note: Confirm the location of the various evacuation centers and evacuation areas on the disaster prevention map.

<b>Evacuation centers</b>	These are usually facilities such as schools or community centers that accept residents whose homes have collapsed or burned down due to an earthquake. They provide residents with lodging, meals and other relief services.
<b>Evacuation areas</b>	These are temporary evacuation sites (such as the Ueno Park area, Sumida Park area and Yanaka Cemetery) that safeguard people from spreading fires and other dangers that may occur during or after earthquakes.



## How should I prepare for an earthquake?

### ① Measures to prevent furniture from toppling

**【Keep large furniture to a minimum, use furniture that is low to the ground, place furniture in safe areas】**  
If you do not take measures to prevent your furniture from toppling over, it increases the chances of something falling on you, or may leave such a mess in your room that you can't continue to live there. According to the Tokyo Fire Department, furniture falling over causes between thirty and fifty percent of injuries sustained during earthquakes. When placing large pieces of furniture, secure them in place with topple-proof devices.

### ② Stockpile

**【Stockpile at least three days' worth (a week's worth is recommended) of drinking water, food and emergency toilets】**  
In the event of a major earthquake, each household must have a stockpile of drinking water, food and other necessities, since public and delivery services will cease to function, causing a delay in supplies and other support. Additionally, the toilets in your home may become unusable if water supplies are cut off or drainage pipes are broken. It is recommended that you have a supply of emergency toilets.

It is also a good idea to prepare gas cartridge stoves, cellphone chargers and other items that are useful during a disaster.

#### 【How to stockpile easily: Daily stockpile】

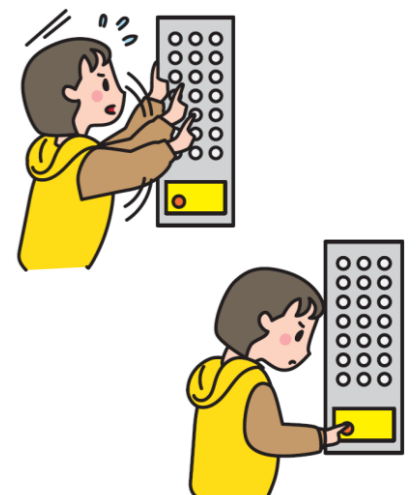
In addition to emergency food supplies, you can easily stockpile more than three days' worth of food and other necessities by keeping a range of items you regularly buy on hand and replenishing the stock as you consume them.

## What should I do when a major earthquake strikes?

- If an earthquake strikes while you are in an elevator
  - Press the buttons for all floors
  - If the elevator stops, press the emergency button
  - Elevators with an earthquake detection device will stop at the nearest floor, so after getting off the elevator, do not move around and wait for rescue to arrive
- If the water supply stops

Note: Even if an elevator is working, it may stop due to aftershocks, so do not use elevators during a disaster.

If the water supply stops, you will not be able to use toilets, so be sure to keep a stock of emergency toilets on hand. Even if the water has not stopped, however, refrain from using water until the safety of the drainage pipes is confirmed.



# 2020 Disaster Prevention Handbook for Housing Complexes: Floods (Overview)


## ① Confirm evacuation procedures

To prepare for typhoons and torrential rains, please check the hazard maps for the various types of disasters and the evacuation procedures you should take. Evacuation procedures involve more than just going to the evacuation area. By thinking in advance about what you need to pay attention to and how you will act, you will be able to act calmly in the event of a heavy storm or flood. For more information on the city's evacuation information, see the righthand page.

### If the Arakawa river overflows its banks

If the Arakawa river overflows its banks, it will flood a large part of Taito City. You will almost certainly have to evacuate to a safe place away from your home. When Taito City issues a "municipalities with a common river system voluntary evacuation information" announcement, please evacuate to a place outside the anticipated flood area as soon as possible.

#### Check the Taito City Arakawa River Flood Hazard Map


Is flooding expected around the apartment building you live in?	
Yes	No
 <p>Flooding will continue for two weeks or longer. Please evacuate to a place outside the anticipated flood area. If you do not, you may become isolated.</p>	<p>There is no need to evacuate. Please be aware of overland flooding and landslides. Even there is no damage forecast for your area, if the terrain is lower than the surrounding area, please check the information from the Japan Meteorological Agency and Taito City, and evacuate if necessary.</p>

### In case of overland flooding, the Kanda river overflowing its banks, or a storm surge

If you live in an apartment building on the second floor or higher up, at-home evacuation will be enough to ensure your safety. If your building is in a flood-prone area where there is a chance of riverbank erosion and the building collapsing, however, please evacuate to an emergency evacuation area regardless of the following.  
Note: Flood-prone areas are areas where there is a risk of riverbanks being eroded by floodwaters, making building collapses likely.


Please check the following:  
Taito City Flood Hazard Map (showing areas susceptible to overland flooding due to torrential rainfall equivalent to the 2000 Tokai Torrential Rain disaster)  
Taito City Kanda River Flood Hazard Map  
Taito City Storm Surge Flood Hazard Map  
Note: Confirm the evacuation procedures you should follow on each hazard map.

#### Is flooding anticipated around your apartment building?

Yes		No
Do you live on the second floor or higher?		
Yes	No	No
 <p>Even if an evacuation information announcement is issued, please stay in your home, but remain alert for updates about landslides and flooding of the Arakawa river.</p>	<p>If an evacuation information announcement is issued, please go to an emergency evacuation area. Note: In the case of condominiums, corridors and other common areas on floors that are not flooded can be used as evacuation sites.</p>	<p>There is no need to evacuate. Remain aware of the possibility of the Arakawa or Kanda rivers overflowing, overland flooding, storm surges and landslides. If the terrain is lower than the surrounding area—even if there is no damage forecast for your area—please check the information from the Japan Meteorological Agency and Taito City, and evacuate as necessary.</p>

### In case of landslides (only for those living in Yanaka or Ikenohata)

#### Check the Taito City Landslide Hazard Map

Is your apartment building in a landslide hazard area?	
Yes	No
 <p>There is a possibility that your building will become buried if there is a landslide. If an evacuation information announcement is issued, please go to an emergency evacuation area.</p>	<p>There is no need to evacuate. Remain aware of the possibility of overland flooding.</p>

## ② Evacuation information announcement (issued to designated areas by Taito City)

If there is a possibility of disaster due to a heavy storm or flood, the city will issue an evacuation information announcement along with an alert level. The city issues this evacuation announcement based on the disaster mitigation information the Japan Meteorological Agency releases.

Alert level	Evacuation information, etc.	Required action	<p><b>If the Arakawa river is expected to overflow its banks, municipalities with a common river system will issue voluntary evacuation information before sending out a level 3 alert. Please evacuate to a place outside the anticipated flood area.</b></p>
Level 3	Prepare to evacuate—the elderly and others begin evacuating	Evacuate the elderly and others from hazardous places.	
Level 4	Evacuation advisory Evacuation warning (emergency)	Everyone evacuates from hazardous places.	
Level 5	Disaster declared	A disaster is already occurring Take the appropriate actions to protect your life!	

Notes:  
1. Changes to the system and the names of the evacuation alerts are under consideration as of February 2021.  
2. The Japan Meteorological Agency announces information on disaster mitigation along with the alert level. Although this information is a guide for residents and facility managers to conduct evacuation procedures based on their own judgment, some of the information does not relate directly to Taito City. Please refer to the evacuation alert the city issues before you evacuate, and take the appropriate actions while evacuating.

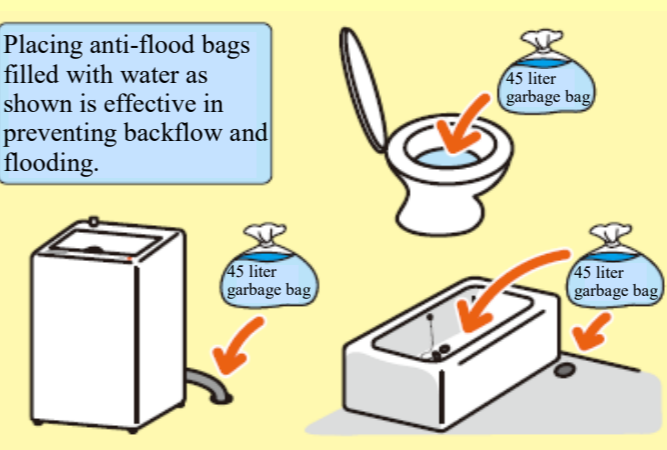
## ③ Taking flooding prevention measures at home

Even if your building is not flooded, the backflow of sewage or water from balconies may cause flooding indoors, so take measures to prevent flooding in your home.

### Measures against the backflow of sewage


If the area around your building floods, sewage in the drainage pipes may flow backward. This sewage may overflow from toilets, kitchens and other places in your home.

Placing anti-flood bags filled with water as shown is effective in preventing backflow and flooding.




### Cleaning the balcony

Rainwater may back up from the balcony drains and come in through the doors. Clean the drains regularly to prevent them from becoming blocked.



Scan the QR code at right to access information about disaster prevention in apartment buildings.

- "Disaster Prevention Handbook for Apartment Buildings" main volume (PDF file)
- Editable disaster prevention plan template and various forms
- Taito City Apartment Policy
- Various information regarding disaster prevention in apartment building
- Other



▲ Taito City Website : Disaster Prevention Measures for Apartment Buildings