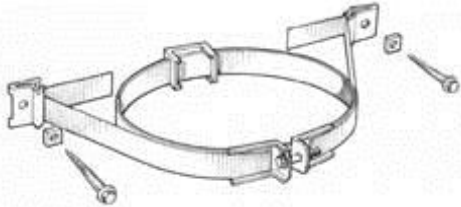




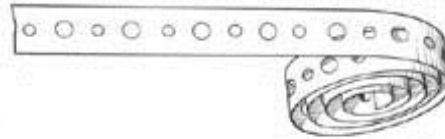
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## SECURING YOUR WATER HEATER & INSTALL BACKFLOW VALVES

Your water heater is an excellent storage tank for 30 – 50 gallons of good clean water in the event of a disaster. However, should it collapse during an earthquake or other disaster, chances are all the water will drain out. It is simple to secure your water heater with straps that can be purchased at hardware stores, or you can hire a plumber to install the straps for you. Previous large earthquakes have caused experts to create new recommendations for securing water heaters. Secure the top AND the bottom. Not just the top, bottom or middle. Use a heavy gauge metal strapping, not plumber's tape. Plumber's tape can break or cause a tank to burst.



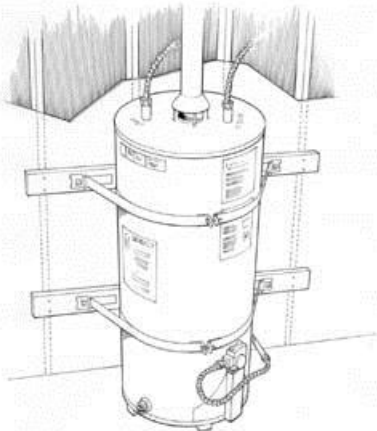
**INSTALL THESE STRAPS (kits available at hardware stores)**



**DO NOT INSTALL THESE**

### HOW TO SECURE A HOT WATER HEATER:

1. The water heater should be within 1" to 2" of the wall. IF it is not, then attach a wooden spacer (a piece of 2"x4", for example) horizontally, to the STUDS in the wall, using long lag screws. If the tank is too far away from the wall, it could tip over, even if it is strapped.
2. The straps should be wrapped around the tank one and a half times. Begin by centering the tape on the back of the tank. The picture below shows proper water heater strapping installation.
3. Secure the strapping to the studs in the wall or the wooden spacer. Use several 1/4" x 3" or longer lag screws with oversize washers.
4. If the wall that you are securing to is concrete, then use 1/4" expansion bolts, not lag screws.
5. Copper and metal piping should be replaced with flexible water line (the metal braided kind).



### INSTALLING A BACKFLOW PREVENTION VALVE:

You should install a Double Check Valve Assembly, also known as a Backflow Prevention Valve, in the event that a public water supply line should break (such as during an earthquake). A DCVA prevents back flow and siphoning from your home water into the public water system. This is something that you should have a plumber install unless you are very knowledgeable about plumbing.

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