

Quiz: How Safe Is Your House? Take This Simple Quiz

◀ Let's confirm the safety of your house! ▶

A quakeproof house protects lives during a severe earthquake. The following quiz can help you evaluate the earthquake performance of your one- or two-floor woodframe home.

※ We recommend taking this quiz for any older building.

Question	Answer	Score	Diagrams
1 When was the house built? [Explanation] The Japanese Building Standard Law was revised in June 1981 to strengthen codes for earthquake resistance. Buildings constructed after June 1981 showed little damage from the 1995 Kobe (Great Hanshin-Awaji) Earthquake.	June 1981 or later.	1	< Q 5 >
	May 1981 or before.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
2 Has the house been exposed to a disaster or severe event? [Explanation] If the house has gone through minor repairs after flooding or leaking from rain or snow, a fire, a large earthquake or a landslide, or has been hit by a vehicle, it may have damages that are hard to detect. In such cases, you should have a professional examine the house.	No, nothing major.	1	< Q 6 >
	Yes. The house has been through 1) a flood, fire, large earthquake or landslide or 2) has been hit by a vehicle.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
3 Are there any additions? [Explanation] Many houses more than 15 years old have had some kind of addition. The important point is that the work has been properly executed and that the proper repair and / or retrofitting work has been done to the house at the point of addition.	No additions, or additions made with the proper permissions.	1	< Q 7 >
	Addition made without proper permissions, or more than once. During the addition, part of a wall or column was removed.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
4 State of damages, repair and retrofitting [Explanation] Use your experience with the house to judge. Are there waves in the roof or eaves? Do columns or floors lean? Are windows and doors difficult to open? If so, the house has deteriorated. If you can push through window sills with a screwdriver, the wood has rotted or has termites. Pay special attention to the north side of the house and the areas adjacent to the bathroom. One sign of termites is that, during the rainy season, they will have wings and fly in groups.	The house is in sound condition or was repaired promptly.	1	< Q 8 >
	Deteriorated, rotted or has termites.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
5 What is the basic shape of the building? [Explanation] Buildings with regular shapes have few problems and are strong against earthquakes, while irregularly shaped buildings are comparatively vulnerable. First, look at the shape of the first floor. Is it basically rectangular, or does it have a more complicated shape (an L or T shape, for example)? If you're not sure, use the following criteria: ignore shapes of less than 91 cm on three sides, box windows, projecting balconies or column-supported balconies designed for drying clothes.	Basically rectangular.	1	< Q 9 >
	Complicated shape (L or T, etc.).	0	
	Don't know.	0	
6 Is there an open ceiling? [Explanation] Even if the building is rectangular, an open ceiling may cause the house to warp during a major earthquake. For this quiz, an open ceiling is defined as having one side that is over 4 meters in height. Answer no if the ceiling is less than 4 meters.	No, there is no open ceiling.	1	< Q 10 >
	Yes, there is an open ceiling.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
7 Do the outer walls on the first and second floors match? [Explanation] When the outer floors on both walls match, the force of the earthquake on the second floor will be smoothly dissipated down the walls of the first floor. When there is an outer wall on the second floor with no corresponding wall on the first floor beneath it, the force of the earthquake will be borne by the floor until it reaches a first-floor wall. In a strong earthquake, this may cause the floor to collapse. However, if the house is a 2 x 4 woodframe structure, you can score 1 point, as such structures can bear strong floor forces.	1F wall directly below 2F wall.	1	< Q 10 >
	No wall directly below 2F wall.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
8 Is the distribution of walls on the first floor well-balanced? [Explanation] When the walls of a house are arranged unevenly, the side of the house with more walls will shake less, while the side with fewer walls will shake more and may collapse more easily. For this quiz, a wall is defined as more than 91 cm wide. Narrow walls can be excluded.	There is an outer wall on all four sides of the house.	1	< Q 10 >
	At least one side has no wall.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
9 What is the relationship between roof materials and the walls? [Explanation] Roof tiles are an excellent material for roofs. However, they are heavy and require a suitably strong structure to support them. Please judge the amount of support by the amount of wall—more walls offer greater support for the roof.	The roof uses tiles or another heavy material, and there are many walls on the first floor. Or, the roof uses lighter materials such as metal sheeting.	1	< Q 10 >
	The roof uses tiles, but there are relatively few walls on the first floor.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
10 What kind of foundation does the house have? [Explanation] When compared to other types of foundations on the same type of ground or in the same level of earthquake, reinforced concrete foundations (continuous footing, mat and pile) are all stronger. Confirm what kind of foundation your home has.	Reinforced concrete foundation (continuous footing, mat and pile).	1	< Q 10 >
	Other type of foundation.	0	
	Don't know.	0	
Score Total points from answers to questions 1-10	Diagnosis and recommended action		Total score
	10 points	You home is probably safe. To be sure, you should have your home professionally assessed for earthquake resistance.	
	8 or 9 points	Have your home professionally assessed for earthquake resistance.	
7 points or less		Cause for concern. Have your home professionally assessed for earthquake.	

Taken from the Japan Building Disaster Prevention Association's "Home Anti-Seismic Test for Everyone"

Ibaraki City List of Open Evacuation Areas, Temporary Evacuation Areas and Evacuation Centers

Wide Evacuation Sites	Location
Nishihodumi Kyuryo	Nishihodumi-cho, Oaza Nakahodumi
The Expo Park	Senri Expo Park, Suita City
Nishigawara Park	Nishigawara 1~3-chome, Shironomaecho

◀ Remember to confirm with family members where to evacuate! ▶

Temporary Evacuation Sites	Location
Kuwata Park	Kuwata-cho
Mizuo Park	Mizuo 1-chome
Wakasono Park	Masago 2-chome
Sawaragi Park	Yokoe 2-chome
Kamihodumi Park	Kamihodumi 3-chome
Kasugaoka (Matsuzawa-ike) Park	Minamikasugaoka 4-chome
Chuo Park	Ekimae 3,4-chome

Temporary Evacuation Sites	Location
Koriyama Park	Shinkoriyama 1-chome
Minohara Park	Minohara 3-chome
Mishima Park	Mishima-cho
Asagi-satoyama Park	Saitoasagi 5-chome
Shimafureai Park	Shima 3-chome
Saitonishi Park	Saitoyamabuki 1-chome
Iwakura Park	Iwakura-cho

	Designated evacuation shelter	Tel. No.	Address
1	Ibaraki Elementary School	624-3132	8-40.Katagiricho
2	Ibaraki Public Hall	625-7807	1-19.Togucho
3	Ibaraki High School	622-3423	12-1.Shinjocho
4	Yosei Junior High School	622-6345	7-60.Ekimae 4-chome
5	Lifelong Learning Center Kirameki	624-8182	1-43.Hatakedacho
6	Municipal Gymnasium	626-3821	2-1.Ogawacho
7	Higashinara Elementary School	633-9648	5-36.Higashinara 2-chome
8	Chujo Elementary School	622-2729	7-12.Shinchojocho
9	Kasugaoka High School	623-2061	1-2.Kasuga 2-chome
10	Kasuga Elementary School	622-2358	5-18.Kamihohigashimachi
11	Ibaraki Technology High School	623-1331	6-41.Kasuga 5-chome
12	Hatakeda Elementary School	627-0686	3-31.Hatakedacho
13	Kasuga Community Center	626-6541	13-30.Kamihozumi 2-chome
14	Nishi Junior High School	622-2658	5-4.Mitsukeyama 2-chome
15	Kasugaoka Elementary School	622-2515	3-43.Nakahozumi 3-chome
16	Hozumi Elementary School	627-5277	6-62.Shimohozumi 2-chome
17	Sawaiki Elementary School	625-6300	11-6.Minamikasugaoka 3-chome
18	Seiry Junior High School	625-4781	19-6.Minamikasugaoka 1-chome
19	Ibaraki Nishi High School	625-5711	10-68.Shimeien
20	Nishi Elementary School	622-3485	12-23.Kitakasugaoka 3-chome
21	Kori Elementary School	643-4121	26-23.Kori 5-chome
22	Koriyama Elementary School	643-5345	30-18.Shinkoriyama 2-chome
23	Toyokawa Inochi-Ai-Yume Center	643-2069	4-28.Toyokawa 4-chome
24	Toyokawa Elementary School	643-5916	14-5.Shukunosho 5-chome
25	Toyokawa Junior High School	643-1567	16-8.Fujinosato 1-chome
26	Fukui Elementary School	643-5173	4-20.Higashifukui 2-chome
27	Fukui Communication Center of Generations	643-1300	23-22.Higashifukui 2-chome
28	Fukui Municipal Gymnasium	641-4961	30-45.Nishifukui 3-chome
29	Miyama Public Hall	649-3109	163.Oaza-Shimootowa
30	Kiyotani Elementary School	649-2025	857.Oaza-Izuhara
31	Ninchoji Elementary School	649-3014	31-2.Oaza-Ninchoji
32	Yamatedai Elementary School	649-1282	9-4.Yamatedai 4-chome
33	Hokuryo Junior High School	649-4641	23-10.Yamatedai 1-chome
34	Ai Elementary School	643-5128	21-23.Ai 2-chome
35	Kita Junior High School	643-9191	10-3.Minamiai 3-chome
36	Minohara Elementary School	641-1900	20-55.Minohara 2-chome
37	Oda Elementary School	643-8384	21-26.Hanazono 1-chome
38	Oda Junior High School	641-2557	6-10.Hanazono 1-chome
39	Oda Public Hall	623-9076	6-18.Oda 3-chome

	Designated evacuation shelter	Tel. No.	Address
40	Nishigawara Elementary School	622-3303	7-33.Nishigawarakitamachi
41	Mishima Elementary School	624-5261	3-13.Mishimacho
42	Mishima Community Center	625-6474	7-12.Nishigawara 2-chome
43	Mishima Junior High School	626-2145	17-10.Nishigawara 1-chome
44	Nishigawara Communication Center of Generations	623-9343	17-4.Nishigawara 2-chome
45	Sojiji Inochi-Ai-Yume Center	626-5660	5-36.Sojiji 2-chome
46	Shoei Elementary School	622-4711	26-5.Sho 2-chome
47	Higashi Elementary School	633-2541	5-23.Ayukawa 2-chome
48	Shirakawa Public Hall	632-7870	8-17.Ayukawa 1-chome
49	Shirakawa Elementary School	633-1191	4-1.Shirakawa 1-chome
50	Shinome Junior High School	633-6966	21-7.Gakuenminimachi
51	Tamashima Elementary School	632-3160	11-23.Tamashima 2-chome
52	Hirata Junior High School	633-1501	8-20.Hirata 1-chome
53	Tamashima Public Hall	633-1020	25-9.Hirata 2-chome
54	Hokusei Tsubasa High School	633-2000	2-15.Tamashimadai
55	Nakatsu Elementary School	634-3478	10-15.Nakatsucho
56	Support Center for Elderly Activities Senior Plaza Ibaraki	632-7411	24-21.Kuwatacho
57	Oike Elementary School	632-8663	5-8.Oike 1-chome
58	Oike Community Center	633-8071	11-35.Funakicho
59	Higashi Junior High School	632-8414	7-4.Suehirocho
60	Mizuo Elementary School	633-3792	7-16.Mizuo 4-chome
61	Tamakushi Elementary School	634-2144	1-51.Mizuo 3-chome
62	Minami Junior High School	633-1601	6-41.Wakasonocho
63	Ashihara Elementary School	633-7680	13-50.Shinwacho
64	Sawaragi Inochi-Ai-Yume Center	635-7667	12-19.Sawaragihama 3-chome
65	Tamakushi Community Center	633-0105	5-39.Sawaragihigashimachi
66	Tenno Elementary School	625-6205	13-57.Tenno 2-chome
67	Tenno Junior High School	632-5781	8-5.Sawaraginishi 3-chome
68	Kurakakiuchi Assembly Hall	624-6530	11-23.Kurakakiuchi 3-chome
69	Saitonishi Elementary School	641-2481	8-1.Saitoasagi 5-chome
70	Higashi Municipal Gymnasium	633-5701	4-18.Gakuencho
71	Saitonishi Junior High School	640-1331	6-7.Saitoasagi 4-chome
72	Citizens Synthetic Center (Create Center)	624-1726	6-16.Ekimae 4-chome
73	Men&Women Symbiosis Center Rose WAM	620-9920	4-7.Motomachi
74	Toyokawa Community Center	641-8910	16-8.Fujinosato 2-chome
75	Minami Municipal Gymnasium	630-0111	8-19.Shima 3-chome

Emergency supplies are stockpiled at places marked in red. These locations will serve as emergency relief activity centers.

Useful Information for Earthquake Preparedness | Quiz: How Safe Is Your House? | List of Open Evacuation Areas, Temporary Evacuation Areas and Evacuation Centers