

# Essentials Kit Information

Important: Upon receiving your Earthquake Essentials Kit, remove the following items:



1. We recommend that you store your **Trauma Kit** separately, as you may need this kit in other circumstances besides earthquakes. Feel free to add any additional items.



2. Remove the **Emergency Radio** from its packaging along with its charging cord and charge it up right away. Note that it also takes AAA batteries (included). This radio can be left in the kit or stored separately in your home.



3. Take the **Gas Shutoff Tool** and find where the gas line enters your home. Locate the shut-off valve (a small rectangular protrusion) on the riser pipe leading from the ground to your meter. Using the instruction sticker as a guide, apply gently increasing pressure until you feel the valve head start to turn. **Do NOT turn it completely to a horizontal position as this will shut the gas off.** Return the valve head to its upright position after testing. (There is a link to a video showing how to do this on our website.) Store this tool either attached loosely to the riser pipe or in the house where it can be quickly and easily accessed.

**Always remember:**

1. Only turn off the gas if you feel it is safe and there are **no open flames** nearby.
2. Only turn off the gas if you **smell gas** or **hear gas escaping**.
3. If you turn it off, **don't turn it back on** as gas could be released in your house where pilot lights have gone out or where leaks exist. Wait for a representative of the gas company to come turn it on for you.



4. The **Drinking Water Hose** can optionally be removed and used to fill water containers, or left with the kit. For storing water, see the CDC instructions posted on our website.



5. Remove the **Key Ring Whistles** and either put them on your key ring or distribute them in areas where they might be needed (basement, child's room, car, etc.).

Store your Essentials Kit in a cool, dry location where you can easily access it after an earthquake, preferably on the ground floor of your home. You may wish to purchase a suitable container for more secure or outside storage. We have intentionally not provided a container due to the large number of options on the market, widely varying preferences regarding quality and cost, and due to our focus on keeping the price of the kits as low as possible.