For masonry construction, follow these 7 tips to make your house safer in earthquakes and more resistant to typhoons.

1. **Build a hipped roof or a lightweight gable.** Masonry gables are heavy and can collapse in an earthquake.

2. **Connect the roof strongly to the ring beam with straps or brackets, or else it could blow away in a typhoon!**

3. **Connect the building using a ring beam on top of walls, a plinth beam at the foundation, and tie columns between them.**

4. **Overlap rebar by at least 40 rebar diameters; short overlaps and hooks are not strong!**

5. **Connect beams and columns together by continuing rebar through the joints.** Use rebar stirrups with rotated hooks around column and beam rebar.

6. **Use strong blocks.** If the blocks break when dropped, find another seller that makes stronger blocks. Wet the blocks before adding to the wall and add plaster to the walls.

7. **Connect the walls to the columns with rebar dowels or masonry toothing.** Build the walls before pouring the columns and ring beam.
For wood construction, follow these 7 tips to make your house safer in earthquakes and more resistant to typhoons.

1. **Connect** all wood framing members **strongly** to each other to improve typhoon resistance. Nails are cheap!

2. Use **diagonal wind bracing** between trusses.

3. Truss members should be connected with **straps** or **gusset plates** to have strength in strong winds.

4. Connect the roof strongly to the walls with **straps** or **brackets**.

5. Use **diagonal bracing** to strengthen column-beam connections.

6. Anchor the posts to foundations with **post brackets**.

7. Foundations must be **deep** and/or **heavy** to counteract the uplift force of the wind.
You CAN keep your family safe from earthquakes.

And you should build back better, because more earthquakes are coming. Consider building a timber house. In earthquakes, it’s safer than a masonry house. Whichever type of house you choose, remember to make connections strong, from the roof to the foundation. Also, use only good quality materials. Don’t use limestone or coral or beach sand as aggregates to make concrete or concrete blocks. The decisions you make now in the reconstruction of your home will affect the safety of your family in the future.

If you decide to build with masonry, follow these 7 tips to make your house safer in earthquakes and more resistant to typhoons.

- Build earthquake resistant houses
- Change construction practice permanently

3,747 Better Builders
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10,423 Empowered Homeowners
20,299 Safer Homes

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TIPS ON MAKING YOUR HOME STRONGER AND SAFER
with information on:
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When building with wood, follow these 7 tips to make your house safer in earthquakes and more resistant to typhoons.

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