

DOCUMENT DETAILS	
Content type	Blog Post
Targeted KWs	<b>Earthquake Retrofitting Los Angeles</b> Seismic upgrades Seismic upgrade
URL	<a href="https://www.theswcollective.com/earthquake-retrofitting-los-angeles">https://www.theswcollective.com/earthquake-retrofitting-los-angeles</a>
Meta-title	Earthquake Retrofitting Los Angeles   SWC
Meta-description	Secure your home with our expert Earthquake Retrofitting services in Los Angeles. Protect your property with our Seismic upgrades and ensure safety for you and your loved ones.

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## Earthquake Retrofitting Los Angeles

There are about [30 earthquakes](#) daily in the Los Angeles area, and most have a magnitude below 2.0, so you typically don't feel them. But with such a high earthquake frequency, you want to ensure that your property can withstand earthquake damage.

The southern section of the San Andreas fault runs just 25 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles, making it a **high-risk area** for seismic activity. Earthquake retrofitting is the process of reinforcing your existing home or business to resist this type of shaking and damage.

Older homes are especially vulnerable, but you should want to strengthen any structure before a devastating earthquake hits and leaves you without a roof over your head. The chance of a 6.7 magnitude earthquake hitting California is [over 99%](#), so you should prepare now.

### The Importance of Earthquake Retrofitting

Homes built before 1980 are especially at risk because no [building codes](#) in place demanded a certain level of structural integrity. However, even homes built more recently can pass minimum code regulations but still [experience severe damage](#) after an earthquake.

**Earthquake retrofitting strengthens your existing structures.** The process better secures your home to the foundation, so shaking won't cause the beams and framework to shift. You already have a home you love, so take the necessary steps to protect the structure's integrity—and safeguard your financial investment.

The process of retrofitting doesn't just protect your home from damage—it protects your family. If done properly, earthquake retrofitting in Los Angeles can actually increase your home value. When your house can withstand substantial earthquake damage, your loved ones stay safe inside.

If you're proactive and hire The Sterling Watson Collective for a seismic upgrade, you're paying a fraction of the price to keep your home and family safe. Failing to take action means you could lose your house to an earthquake, paying more for a new structure and lodging during the construction stages.

It's more affordable to retrofit your home than pay for endless repairs on a damaged structure. Depending on the earthquake's magnitude, you might even have to completely rebuild your home, which costs a lot of money and takes a long time. When you proactively retrofit your home, you ensure that you will have a place to stay after a natural disaster.

## **The Process of Earthquake Retrofitting**

To retrofit your home, you'll first need an assessment. Get in touch with our team of experienced structural engineers so we can come to your property and determine your necessary seismic upgrades. We can map your house to see its relation to known faults and assess the potential damage you'd encounter from an earthquake.

The assessment tells us what to do to keep you and your family safe inside during a natural disaster. We also ensure the house stays habitable after a high-magnitude earthquake. **Your safety and well-being are of utmost importance**, and we want to protect you from harm, structural damage, and the stress they can cause.

The best-case scenario is that earthquake retrofitting prevents damage to your house. However, the process will greatly decrease potential repairs. The Sterling Watson Collective gauges your structure to

ensure seismic upgrades reduce the cost of any repairs that might happen after the strongest earthquakes.

The retrofitting process includes bracing, bolting, and reinforcing.

### **Wall Bracing**

If your walls aren't reinforced, they can shift during an earthquake. Your walls rest on the house's foundation and support the floors. The interior walls also support the exterior and ceiling. When these walls shift, your entire house is at risk of being compromised.

Bracing these walls strengthens your home's overall structure, increasing stability and preventing shaking during an earthquake.

### **Foundation Bolting**

An earthquake retrofit bolts your house to its foundation. Without this approach, your home can move around on the foundation during the earthquake. The bolting process involves drilling holes through a [sill foundation plate](#) and installing anchor bolts to keep everything in place.

In case you don't have space to drill into the foundation, we can attach steel plates to keep everything in place.

### **Reinforcing Chimneys and Masonry**

If your home has a chimney, that one fixture can cause more damage than anything else.

Our team can reinforce your chimney in several ways, including:

- Installing a diagonal steel brace across the chimney
- Layering plywood on the roof surrounding the chimney
- Replacing the upper part of the chimney with metal

The same falling brick principle applies to masonry walls. The goal is to strengthen these walls with more anchors, extra layers between the floor joists, or ties across the roof.

### **Unique Housing Options**

Many houses in the Los Angeles area have an extra room over the garage. These spaces don't have the same structure and insulation as the rest of the building. We can install steel reinforcements or plywood sheathing to the walls to ensure they're structurally sound.

If you bought a house built into a hill, we can install diagonal braces to help withstand earthquakes. Similarly, houses built on wooden or concrete posts need reinforcement so they don't fall from the height or collapse.

## **Benefits of Earthquake Retrofitting**

There are countless benefits of earthquake retrofitting, including:

- Safety
- Resource protection
- Home guarantee

**Safety is the most important reason to retrofit your home.** You want a house that is sturdy and remains structurally sound, even during a massive earthquake. Your family will have a reliable building to keep them safe from damage.

Resource protection is another benefit of retrofitting. The most obvious resource is your home. Retrofitting reinforces the structure so it won't crumble during an earthquake. The sturdy roof and walls will protect your belongings, heirlooms, and memories. You won't have to spend money replacing damaged items or rebuilding your house because you previously protected it.

The home guarantee is a benefit because you know you'll have a safe place to stay during and after the earthquake. The last thing you want to deal with after experiencing a natural disaster is trying to find a place to stay. Other people may lose their homes and need places to stay, making it a fight to find lodging. But if you retrofit your home, you'll have a roof over your head.

## **Grant Programs for Retrofitting**

You can apply for grant money for **seismic upgrades**. There are several databases that share funding resources, including:

- [The United States Department of Energy](#)
- [The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)
- [Earthquake Brace and Bolt](#)

When you receive grant money for retrofitting, you'll also have access to the list of approved contractors suited for the job. The grant money pays for a good portion of the retrofit, if not the entire cost.

Keep in mind that retrofitting your home also lowers your insurance premiums. You can't live in California without [earthquake insurance](#), but that doesn't mean you need to overpay for that safety net. With a proper retrofit from The Sterling Watson Collective, you can save up to 20% off your earthquake insurance premiums.

## **In Need of an Earthquake Retrofitting in Los Angeles?**

If you're a homeowner in the greater Los Angeles area, it's important to consider earthquake retrofitting as a precautionary measure to protect your home and your loved ones. You don't want to wait until your house experiences a natural disaster. Our team here at The Sterling Watson Collective offers a range of earthquake retrofitting services to meet the specific needs of your home, making sure that it is up to code and able to withstand substantial seismic activity. If you're looking for a reliable and experienced company to assist you with seismic upgrades,

The Sterling Watson Collective is here to help you prepare for the big one. After years of experience in the Los Angeles area, we know how to best reinforce all structures on your property to withstand earthquake damage. Contact us today to [schedule a consultation](#) and take the first step towards a safer and more secure home.