

What does shelter in place mean?

Shelter in place is not the same as “staying inside” a building. Sheltering in place is creating a “safe room” in your home. A true shelter-in-place order is because of a chemical, biological or radiological threat. If a chemical agent leak happens (i.e. ammonia, radiation, hazardous materials), authorities will instruct people to either shelter where they are and seal the premises (shelter in place) or evacuate immediately. A chemical release is an accidental release of harmful chemicals into the air. It can occur at manufacturing plants, from accidents involving transport trucks or trains, from terrorist acts or even as a result of a fire at an industrial area. Generally, shelter where you are unless directed otherwise by response officials. It is only natural to want to be with your loved ones, but it is safer to stay where you are. Do not attempt to get your children from school or daycare. Instead, ask your school ahead of time what their plans are.

Before an Incident

To properly shelter-in-place you will need to prepare a “safe room” in advance. You will likely need to stay inside several hours, but not several days, so choose a room and stock supplies to get you through the time. A good example of this includes a master bedroom with an attached bathroom to give you access to a toilet and running water or a bathroom. Contact your local emergency management office to identify which chemical hazards may be present in your area. If you live near industrial areas or are within 2,000 feet of a major highway or train tracks that carry industrial materials, you are in an area that may be prone to chemical leaks. Shelter in place is a very short term protective action and at some point determined by public officials, you will be told to leave your home or to open everything up if the hazard has passed by. Know how to get an emergency alert notification. It will be on radio, TV and official’s social media. Find out from your local emergency management officials what alerts they would use. Be sure you are registered if that is required. More information at mil.wa.gov/alerts

Preparing your Safe Room

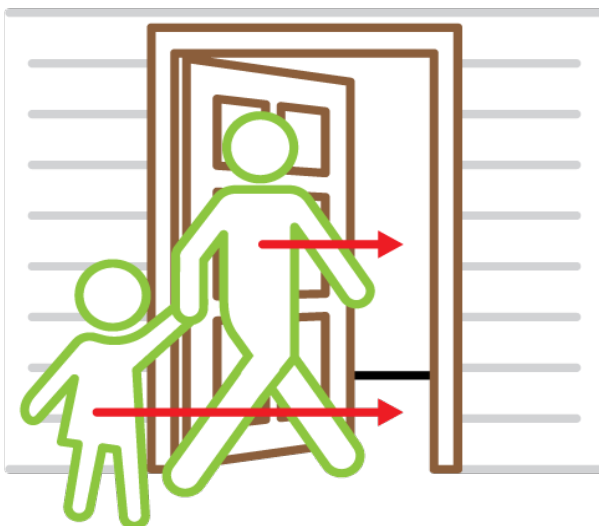
Purchase plastic sheeting and duct tape. Pre-cut the plastic to fit all windows, vents, and doors of this room, and label each piece. Create a box or container for your safe room to hold the pre-cut plastic, tape and these additional supplies:

- A battery-powered AM / FM radio (power may be out) with extra batteries
- Water and snacks
- Some towels and blankets (if this is another room than the bedroom)

If you haven’t prepared a room ahead of time, don’t panic. You can still safely use garbage bags instead of plastic tarp or your shower curtain to help cover windows, vents and doors.

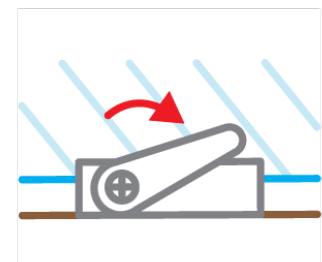
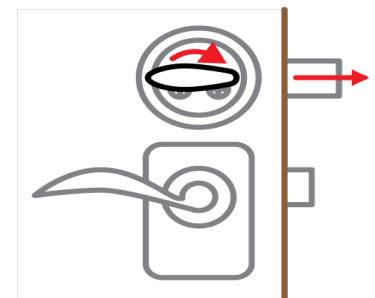
1. Go inside immediately.

Remember your kids and pets.



2. Tightly lock all doors and windows

The faster you do this, and the more tightly, the less likely contaminants will get inside.

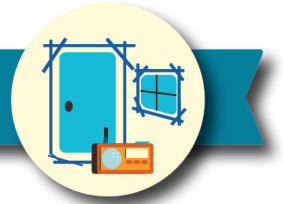


Prepare

in a
Year



11. Shelter in Place



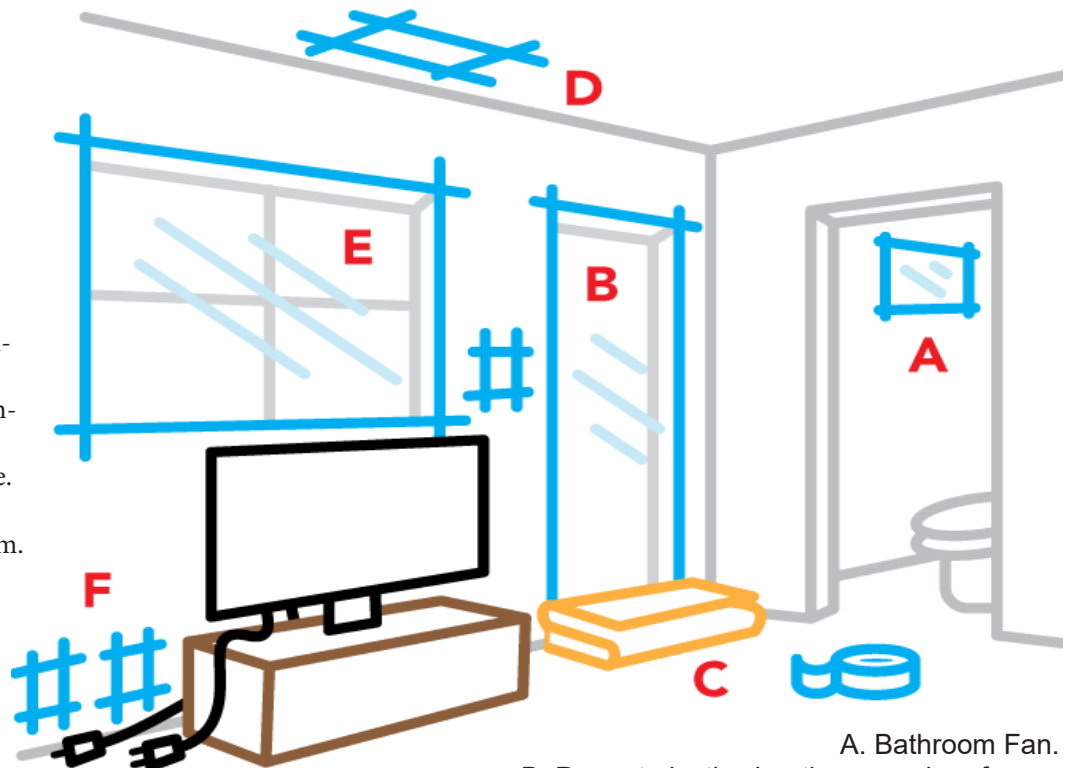
3. Shut off fans and devices that circulate air throughout your home.

- Shut off fans.
- If a fire is lit, put it out. Shut the vents and doors.
- Tightly close wood stove and fireplace dampers.
- Adjust thermostat or furnaces and air conditioners to shut off and stay off.



4. Get into your pre-selected room and seal it tightly.

- Tape plastic sheeting over windows, doors, vents, bathroom fans, electrical outlets. Remember, you are creating a tightly sealed room, so freely use tape.
- Place dampened towels under door cracks to tightly seal them.



- A. Bathroom Fan.
- B. Pre-cut plastic sheeting over door frame.
- C. Dampened towels under door to tightly seal.
- D. Tape forced-air registers (on ceiling and floor).
- E. Pre-cut plastic sheeting over window frame.
- F. Tape outlets, TV cables, switches, landline jacks.



5. Listen to media for instructions.

- Use radio, TV or social media to check for official instructions on when it's safe to come out or whether to evacuate. On social media, only follow trusted sources.

6. Thoroughly air out your home once the emergency is over

- Open your doors and windows. This will allow small particles that may have gotten in to dissipate.

