

Sample Letter: Request for Permission to Brace Furniture



October 17, 2015

Mary Landlady
123 Jay Street
Berkeley, CA 94702

Dear Ms. Landlady,

As you may be aware, the lease at 1234 Happy Parkway currently prohibits us from such things as making alteration and/or putting holes in the walls without written permission.

I'm writing to request permission to do some work in the unit to help make it more secure and safe in case of an earthquake. What I had in mind was bracing a large bookcase in the living room and a wardrobe in the bedroom.

According to FEMA, large pieces of furniture such as tall bookcases and file cabinets can fall on occupants during an earthquake. Toppled furniture can also block exits and prevent escape as well as cause damage to the rental unit or home. Anchoring furniture so that it remains upright not only helps prevent injuries but also helps ensure that occupants can safely exit and responders can safely enter the apartment to provide care if needed.

Bracing of large furniture and appliances is also recommended by Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services and many other government agencies.

As a result of this safety concern, we would like to request your written permission to brace our furniture in accordance with FEMA recommendations. Of course we would be more than willing to show you just what types of work we had in mind before we did any work.

Please reply in writing at your earliest convenience.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Terry Tenant
Henry Housemate