

# Media Release

## Updated guidance for the repair and reconstruction of homes in Canterbury published

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The Department of Building and Housing has published updated guidance on the repair and reconstruction of houses in earthquake-affected areas of Canterbury.

The Department's Revised guidance on repairing and rebuilding houses affected by the Canterbury earthquake sequence includes information for the repair and reconstruction of homes, including foundations, in green zone technical categories 1 and 2 (TC1 and TC2).

Department of Building and Housing Chief Executive Katrina Bach says the updated guidance will allow homeowners with damaged properties in the residential green zone to get on with the process of repairing or rebuilding their homes with greater confidence.

"The document forms part of the Government's support for long-term recovery in Canterbury. It gives robust and well-balanced engineering solutions that will reduce the risk of injury to people and damage to homes in future earthquakes."

The revised document reflects new scientific and geotechnical information and knowledge about the impact of earthquakes and the effects of liquefaction on residential dwellings.

It includes useful information on repairs to foundations and new foundations in TC1 and TC2, assessments of retaining walls for hillside properties, chimney repairs and repairs to house superstructures, pole frame houses and masonry walls.

The guidance also applies to repairs to homes in green zone technical category 3 (TC3) that do not involve foundations. Homes in TC3 with foundation damage requiring structural repair will need site-specific geotechnical investigation and specific engineering foundation design. Further investigation is being undertaken to inform the development of suitable foundation solutions for TC3.

The Department's Revised guidance on repairing and rebuilding houses affected by the Canterbury earthquake sequence supersedes the guidance issued by the Department in December 2010 in response to the 4 September 2010 Canterbury earthquake.

The guidance document can be downloaded from the Department's website at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/guidance-on-repairs-after-earthquake>