



Feature section

CSR at THK

## Protecting lives and property from earthquakes Developing and popularizing seismic isolation devices

Someone who buys and lives in a building wants peace of mind.



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(right) and

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As a local contracting firm, we construct about 18 custom-built houses, shops, and apartments per year, using predominantly wood and other natural materials. Shizuoka Prefecture is the location of the estimated epicenter of a Tokai earthquake, which has an 87% probability of occurring within the next 30 years, and it's not uncommon for major earthquakes to occur here. Having done our homework, studying quake-resistance and seismic isolation, we decided that since quake-resistance measures can't prevent falling furniture, the only thing to do is use seismic isolation. We looked at several manufacturers and concluded that THK's technology was far superior to the others.

This happened to be just when we were planning to build a two-generation house for ourselves, so we decided to install seismic isolation devices in our own house first. We didn't want our children or grandchildren to be injured by earthquakes. We included a glassed-in area enabling the seismic isolators to be observed at any time. Since then we've constructed seven seismically isolated buildings.

Seismically isolating a house costs about the same as an expensive car. It's important that the client clearly understands this. Because it requires precision it's more trouble to build, but above all else, it's our duty as a local contractor to provide our clients with peace of mind, so we recommend installing seismic isolation devices.



Seismic isolation devices installed in their own house. One tatami mat has been replaced with glass, enabling clients to view the installation.