

Protecting people's lives and property

THK's seismic isolation devices



Toshifumi Daicho

Executive Vice-president
Daicho-tekko. Co., Ltd.
Fujieda, Shizuoka Prefecture

Testimonial Construction incorporating seismic isolation

I had been looking for a sturdily built house. After the Suruga Bay earthquake I realized that seismic isolation is tremendously effective.

The experts say it's highly possible that a major earthquake will occur in the Tokai region in the near future. That's a serious concern for people in Shizuoka Prefecture, and it's why I wanted to build an especially sturdy house. At first I was interested in earthquake-resistant construction, but I went to a home improvement store and opted for a seismic isolation devices that keep the house safe by isolating it from tremors while still providing plenty of freedom in the design of the house. I examined seismic isolation mechanisms offered by various makers and finally decided on a THK product because it provides strong protection against vertical shocks, those up-and-down vibrations, and had the most reassuring product concept. When the Suruga Bay earthquake struck in August 2009 I was in bed. The house was swaying gently, and it seemed like a level-two or level-three earthquake (on the Japanese scale). I turned on the TV and found out it had been a major earthquake registering a low six, and I heard later that people at my parents' house had been knocked off their feet. I realized then that the seismic isolation of our house was extremely effective.

Efforts to equip residential structures with earthquake-resistance and vibration-damping features are proceeding in Shizuoka as a countermeasure against the potential occurrence of a Tokai earthquake. This may well reduce the vibration of the building, but objects inside could still be shaken and fall over. When it comes to protecting your personal safety, I think seismic isolation devices, which absorb vibrations, are the best way to go.

In their own words

A local employee

I was glad to hear that the customer's home didn't incur any damage. I sell seismic isolation devices to building contractors and architectural firms in this area, and I've found that THK's seismic isolation devices are known for their high quality and for providing safety. They are prized for their ability to handle vertical shocks, thanks to the fact that the rail and base are both part of a single unit, which keeps the building from moving upward. In our daily sales activities we will continue to emphasize the considerable safety benefits provided by THK's seismic isolation devices, not only to people who are aware of the impending danger but to homeowners in general.

Morihiko Endo, Senior Assistant Supervisor, Sales Section, SHIZUOKA Branch, Sales Department, East Japan Region II