

Protecting people's lives and property

THK's seismic isolation devices



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Testimonial Construction incorporating seismic isolation

I had seismic isolation devices installed to protect the lives of the people in family. Since the Suruga Bay earthquake, these devices have been very popular with my clients too.

My house was rebuilt in 2006 and equipped with seismic isolation devices. I had been building houses equipped with these devices for a long time, so when I rebuilt my own house I wanted to incorporate seismic isolation. At first I was going to use equipment made by a different manufacturer, but when I checked out the seismic isolation devices that the Shizuoka Branch carries and saw how they're structured, I decided to go with THK. The rail and the base form a single unit, so even if a level-six vertical tremor hit, the force would be released sideways. On the morning of August 11, 2009, I was watching the TV coverage of a typhoon that was approaching, when I realized the house had shifted slightly. I figured it was because of the wind. Then I saw an earthquake bulletin being broadcast; it was only then that I found out an earthquake had occurred. Prior to the Suruga Bay earthquake, I had recommended and actually installed seismic isolation devices in seven houses, and none of them incurred any damage from the earthquake. The owners were all very pleased. There was one owner in particular who had had second thoughts about installing seismic isolation devices after seeing the estimate—and then three months after his house was built this earthquake struck, and there was no damage. He was so glad that he had gone ahead and had those devices installed.

Installing seismic isolation devices certainly isn't cheap, but you can't put a price on protecting the lives of your loved ones. There should a subsidy system to cover seismic isolation devices, as there is for other quake-resistant construction mechanisms. The Suruga Bay earthquake has made people in the Fujieda area more aware of the benefits of seismic isolation. THK's seismic isolation simulating vehicle was a very popular attraction at the Shizuoka housing expo in September 2009.

In their own words

A local employee

When I meet with a client, I point out that seismic isolation has a value that can't be expressed in monetary terms, because it will keep furniture from toppling over and keep your family safe. Most people don't really understand how seismic isolation works, so I usually give a detailed explanation. Since the Suruga Bay earthquake, though, attitudes have definitely changed. People talk about how frightening it was, and more people are interested in having seismic isolation devices installed. At the same time, a lot of building contractors say they've never installed these devices and are worried that it might be difficult. I do my best to help them understand the effectiveness of seismic isolation.

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