

The Richter scale measures earthquake severity. Charles Richter and Beno Gutenberg developed it in 1935, in California.

Magnitude	Description	Average earthquake effects
Less than 2.0	Micro	Can be detected only by a seismograph.
2.0 - 2.9	Minor	Felt slightly by some people. No damage to buildings.
3.0 - 3.9		Rarely causes damage. Shaking of indoor objects can be noticeable. Similar to the vibrations caused by a passing truck.
4.0 - 4.9	Light	Felt by most people in the affected area. May break windows.
5.0-5.9	Moderate	Furniture moves. Plaster may fall from walls. Can cause damage to poorly constructed buildings.
6.0 - 6.9	Strong	Damage to some well-built structures in populated areas. Severe damage to poorly built structures.
7.0 - 7.9	Major	Causes damage to most buildings and severe damage to poorly built structures.
8.0 - 8.9	Great	Major damage to buildings with few structures left standing. Bridges destroyed.
9.0 and greater		At or near total destruction. Severe damage or collapse of all buildings.

Table modified from [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richter\\_magnitude\\_scale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richter_magnitude_scale).

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Magnitude	Description	Average earthquake effects
Less than 2.0	Micro	Micro earthquakes, not felt, or felt rarely. Recorded by seismographs.
2.0 - 2.9	Minor	Felt slightly by some people. No damage to buildings.
3.0 - 3.9		Often felt by people, but very rarely causes damage. Shaking of indoor objects can be noticeable.
4.0 - 4.9	Light	Noticeable shaking of indoor objects and rattling noises. Felt by most people in the affected area. Slightly felt outside. Generally causes none to minimal damage. Moderate to significant damage very unlikely. Some objects may fall off shelves or be knocked over.
5.0 - 5.9	Moderate	Can cause damage of varying severity to poorly constructed buildings. At most, none to slight damage to all other buildings. Felt by everyone.
6.0 - 6.9	Strong	Damage to a moderate number of well-built structures in populated areas. Earthquake-resistant structures survive with slight to moderate damage. Poorly built structures receive moderate to severe damage. Felt in wider areas, up to hundreds of miles/kilometres from the epicentre. Strong to violent shaking close to epicentre.
7.0 - 7.9	Major	Causes damage to most buildings, some to partially or completely collapse or receive severe damage. Well-designed structures are likely to be damaged. Felt across great distances with major damage mostly limited to 250 km from epicentre.
8.0 - 8.9	Great	Major damage to buildings, structures likely to be destroyed. Will cause moderate to heavy damage to sturdy or earthquake-resistant buildings. Damaging in large areas. Felt in extremely large regions.
9.0 and greater		At or near total destruction. Severe damage or collapse to all buildings. Heavy damage and shaking extends to distant locations. Permanent changes in ground topography.

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