#8: BUILD A STRONG SHAPE

The shape of your house and the design and construction of your walls are important for a stronger house.

**SHAPE**
Use a regular shape that is not too narrow. L and U shapes will twist during earthquakes.

**HEIGHT**
Don't build more than 2 storeys plus an attic. If you want to build a taller building, you need stronger materials. Floor to floor height should not be more than 9'10" and less than 6'6".

**DOOR AND WINDOW OPENINGS**
Large openings weaken a wall. Place openings away from corners and leave at least 3ft gap from corners and between openings.

**LONG WALLS NEED SUPPORT**
For a longer house, use regular wall supports or buttresses. It is important to build any divide walls from the same strong material as your outer walls.

- Wall too long without supports
- Provide buttresses
- Provide internal walls