



Kobe Earthquake

The Kobe Earthquake

January 1995 - One of Japan's deadliest earthquakes hit Kobe, killing more than 5,000 people and injuring thousands. The 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit the city of 1.5 million people, located 280 miles west of Tokyo. Entire blocks of buildings were reduced to rubble and roadways and rails systems were twisted.

Approximately one-fifth of the city's population was left homeless. This extensive damage was unexpected because Kobe was supposedly one of the most quake-safe cities in Japan.

Japan Construction Standards


Many specialists predicted that newer structures, subject to tough quake-proofing standards, would not experience severe damage. However, many of these structures turned out to be vulnerable to the quake. Damage to traditionally built Japanese "beam type" homes was even worse.



R-Control® SIP
Construction in Japan



R-Control SIP Strength

R-Control SIP structures can withstand disasters like the Kobe earthquake because of their superior strength. A thick core of  **PerformGuard**® is adhesively bonded between oriented strand board facings to form a structural insulated panel.



R-Control in earthquake devastated Kobe, Japan

Prior to the 1995 earthquake, six homes using R-Control SIP components were built in the Kobe area. All the homes were located within miles of the quake's epicenter. The six Kobe homes pictured here were visited within days after the quake. All the homes stood solidly against the force of the quake.



These positive field reports confirm and validate what has long been established by R-Control Building Systems' extensive structural testing research, R-Control SIPs have superior strength and durability.



R-Control Building Systems is North America's largest provider of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Insulation Systems with manufacturing/sales facilities located throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Japan. Please contact your R-Control Building Systems supplier for design consultation, availability and pricing.



Industry Affiliations:
SIPA, NAHB, AIA, EPSMA,
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