



CITY OF CAPE CANAVERAL

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Property owners can reduce the risk of vibration-related damage (from traffic, construction, railways, industrial equipment, etc.) by taking a mix of preventive, technical, and legal steps:

1. Document the Property's Condition

- Baseline survey: Photograph and video walls, foundations, ceilings, and finishes before nearby work begins.
- Document that your pipes work and water flows.
- Document that your toilets flush.
- Professional condition report: A structural engineer or surveyor can create a dated record that's very useful if damage is later disputed.

2. Monitor Vibrations

- Install vibration monitoring equipment (temporary or permanent) to record vibration levels during construction or operation.
- Compare readings to recognized standards (e.g., building vibration limits) to show whether vibrations are excessive.

3. Improve Structural Resistance

- Reinforce vulnerable elements (cracked masonry, weak foundations, loose plaster).
- Repair existing defects promptly—pre-existing cracks can worsen under vibration.
- Use flexible materials or joints during renovations to better absorb movement.

4. Use Vibration Mitigation Measures

- Isolation systems: Pads, springs, or dampers under machinery or sensitive parts of the building.
- Ground treatments: Trenches, barriers, or soil stabilization (usually for larger projects).
- Sound and vibration insulation for walls and floors near the vibration source.

5. Communicate Early

- If construction is planned nearby:
 - Contact the developer or contractor early.

- Ask for construction methods that minimize vibration (e.g., bored piles instead of driven piles).
- Request advance notice of high-vibration activities.

6. Check Insurance Coverage

- Review property insurance to see whether vibration or construction-related damage is covered.
- Consider additional coverage if the risk is high.

7. Know Your Legal Rights

- Local laws often require contractors to limit vibrations and prevent damage to neighboring properties.
- Keep all records (monitor data, photos, reports).
- If damage occurs, consult a qualified professional (engineer or property lawyer) to assess responsibility.

8. Act Quickly if Damage Appears

- Document new cracks or movement immediately.
- Notify the responsible party in writing.
- Get an independent assessment before repairs.