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

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| **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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