



SANDBAG USAGE FOR FLOOD MITIGATION

WHEN TO USE SANDBAGS

Sandbags are a tool that can be used to reduce property damage from minor flooding events. The best way to determine when to use your sandbags is by monitoring your area's weather forecasts/alert system, and listening to when your area is in a **flood watch**. Sandbags can also only be effective when the predicted rainfall depth is **less than 18in**. It is important to plan ahead and act early when gathering supplies.

Sandbag materials can be obtained either from hardware stores or local distribution events

HOW TO FILL SANDBAGS

1. Have one person place an empty bag in front of both slightly bent legs with arms extended out
2. Fold the top of the bag slightly so that another person shoveling sand can have a wide enough opening for shoveling
3. The shoveler should then use a round ended shovel to pick up the sand with bent knees
4. The shoveler should pour the sand into the bag until the bag is $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ full, then tie off the bag

HOW TO STACK SANDBAGS

1. Before stacking, tape a plastic tarp or sheet along the entryway where sandbags will be placed to reduce leakage
2. Place the first sandbag horizontally with the tied or folded end facing away from the direction of the water
3. Stack the next bag using the same method in step two as close to the first sandbag as possible
4. When starting a new layer, place the sandbags overlapping the first layer in a staggered placement
5. Repeat until all sandbags have been stacked tightly together



Abigail, W. (2026). Two Sandbags Together [Photograph]



Abigal, W. (2026). *Stacked Sandbags at Door.*[Photograph]

HOW TO DISPOSE SANDBAGS

If your sandbags come into contact with floodwaters, they should be treated as contaminated, and be disposed of with local county hazardous waste services. If the sandbags have not been exposed, the sand can either be reused for future flooding events, or can be disposed of in your backyard and the bags can be thrown away in a regular trash can.

SANDBAG “DO’S”

- Fill bags properly ($\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ full)
- Tape plastic sheets or linings before stacking sandbags
- Pack bags tightly together and overlap with each layer
- Place bags strategically around areas that are at high risk of flooding
- Store Sandbags in a cool, dry place out of the sun

SANDBAG “DON’TS”

- Overfill or underfill bags
- Stack bags directly on a rough or unstable surface
- Leave gaps in between stacked bags
- Use garbage bags, feed sacks, or sand from beaches
- Stack bags too high or create a barrier around the entire property

REFERENCES

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