

GET READY



DURING OR BEFORE A FLOOD

1. Use a rounded point spade to fill sandbags.
2. Fill sandbags with sand or dirt. Do not use metal/ gravel as this will make them ineffective.
 - a. The sand and dirt can be sourced from around your home from a play sand pit or garden.
 - b. Fill sandbags 1/2 to 2/3 full and tie the bag at the top with cable ties or fold over and place onto folded flap. See fig 1.
3. Stack sandbags no more than 4 high around low lying entrances to homes and garages. If using to redirect water flow.
 - a. Lay the sandbags as flat as possible in an offset pyramid formation like bricks on a house. See fig 2.
4. This sandbag should weigh no more than 20kg when full.
 - a. Please use heavy lifting techniques and seek help to lift where necessary.
 - b. Always lift with your legs and not your back.
 - c. Do not reach out, bend over, or twist when lifting.
 - d. An overfilled sandbag weighs too much to be safely lifted and will leave gaps or lose its contents which will allow water to seep through.
5. Always wear gloves during the filling operation to avoid hand injuries and protect yourself from contaminants in sand and floodwater.
 - a. Safety goggles should be used on dry and windy days.
 - b. Filling sandbags is physically demanding work and can easily cause back and other injuries if not careful.
 - c. Do not throw sandbags - it stresses the back and shoulders. Instead, use a brigade line to pass bags.
6. Remove any debris from the areas where the sandbags will be placed.
7. After placing the sandbag, walk on the sandbags to create a tight seal between each bag.
 - Polythene plastic can also be incorporated with the sandbag structure to form a more watertight seal. See fig 3.

Figure 1



Figure 2

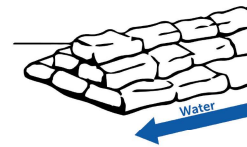
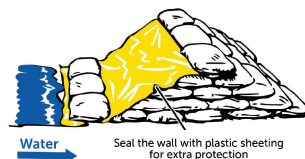


Figure 3



AFTER THE FLOOD

- Sandbags that have been in contact with flood water must be disposed of due to sewage and other contaminants contained in floodwater.
- A disposal network and procedure will be established after the flood event and communicated out.
- Please do not use the sand contained in the bags in gardens or in a children's sandpit after it has been in contact with flood water.
- Please do not tip the sand down stormwater drains.

