

# SANDBAGGING

Well-positioned sandbags can reduce the amount of water entering your home.

## How do I fill a sandbag?

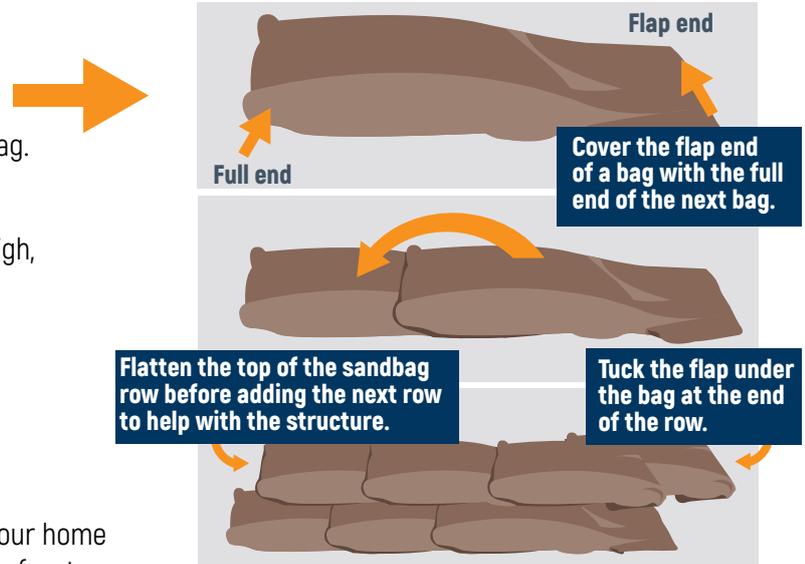
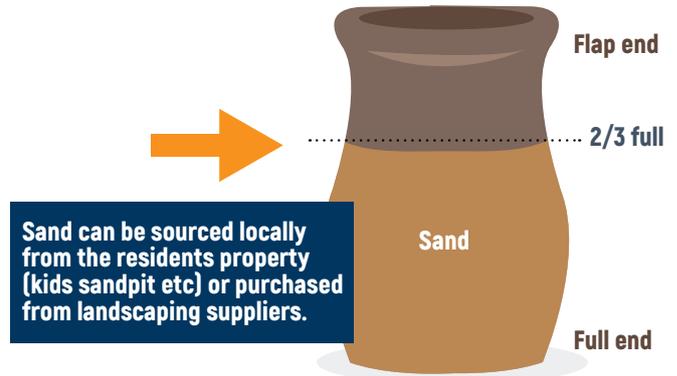
- Only use sand to fill bags. Do not use dirt or gravel.
- Fill sandbags only to a point that you can carry comfortably. A filled sandbag can weigh 15 to 20 kilograms.
- Do not tie the top of the sandbag.

## How do I lay sandbags?

- Stagger rows, laying sandbags like brickwork.
- Start at one end and work to the other end.
- Ensure the unfilled part of the bag is covered by the next bag.
- Tuck flap under the bag at the end of the row.
- If the sandbag wall is going to be more than five (5) bags high, you will need to lay two (2) rows wide.
- Flattening down the sandbag row before adding the next row will help build a better structure.

## Where do I place the sandbags?

- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in your home and business (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under sandbags to reduce the leakage.



## What do I do once I have finished with the sandbags?

- Sturdy gloves should be worn when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste and diseases.
- Sandbags that have been in contact with floodwater need to be thrown away. They cannot be reused.
- Sand from sandbags not exposed to floodwater can be usually scattered on lawns or gardens as topsoil, where it will not wash into drains.
- Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of your sandbags safely.

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