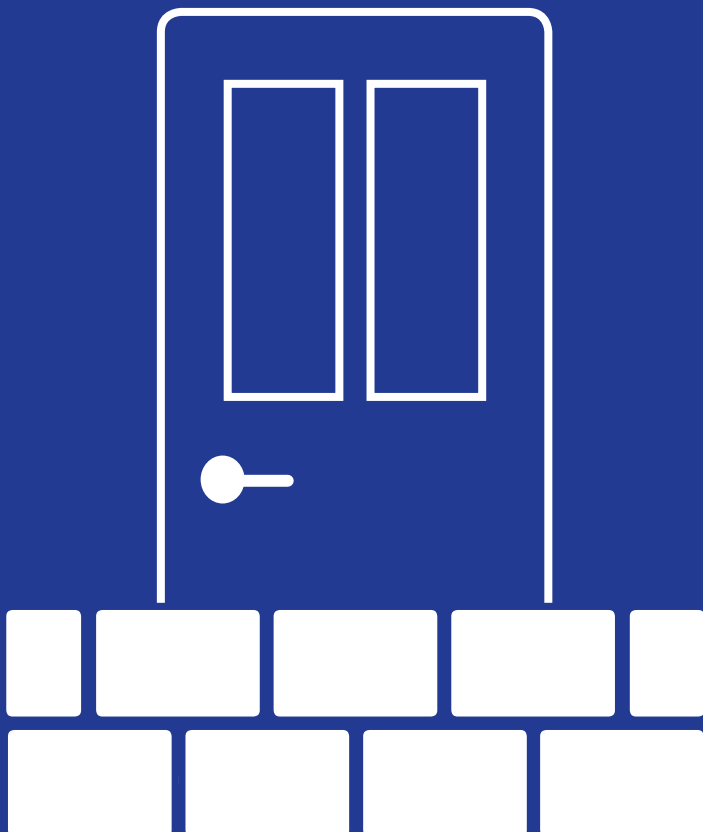


Some practical steps on placing sandbags

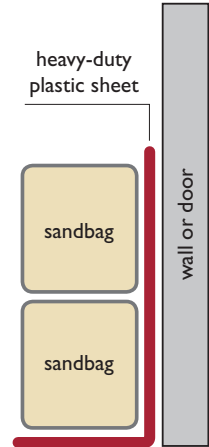


Safety First

- Wear gloves and appropriate footwear if you are filling or moving sandbags. If the sand is dry, wear safety glasses. Be aware that sandbags are heavy. Make sure you are able to lift and handle the filled bags safely.

Placing Sandbags

- Put sandbags at all the entry points that water could get through such as – doorways and airbricks. Also consider what your neighbour may be doing as adjoining property can often be linked below floor levels.
- You'll usually need at least six sandbags to reduce the impact of 20cm (8 inch) depth of water for a standard door opening.
- Clear any debris from the area where the bags are to be placed.
- If you can, put a large sheet of heavy-duty plastic between the sandbags and the door / wall of your house.
- Place the bags length ways, tucking any open ends under the filled half of the bag.
- Place bags in layers. Like a brick wall, make sure that in the next layer each bag overlaps the one below by half.
- Stamp bags firmly into place to eliminate gaps and create a tight seal.
- To lay sandbags in a doorway it may be necessary to empty some of the contents out or shape the sandbags to achieve a good fit without overlapping.



Disposing of Sandbags

- If the sandbags do not get wet they can be emptied and re-used, but they will rot after about six months when exposed to weather or sunlight and left full of sand. You can empty the sand into your garden soil, dry the bags and purchase some fresh 'building' sand from a DIY shop to fill when needed.
- The Council will not be able to collect sandbags after they have been distributed. If the sandbags come into contact with floodwater they should be disposed of at your local waste recycling site. Always wear gloves and wear appropriate footwear when moving sandbags. Be aware that sandbags are extremely heavy when wet.

Preparing for Future Flooding

- The Council is sometimes able to provide sandbags on this occasion but we may not be able to help in the future or respond to your request in time to stop flooding due to available resources. It is the homeowners responsibility to take appropriate action to protect their property from flooding. If you think your property could be at risk of flooding and you might need sandbags in the future it is important that you act now and buy your own in order to be prepared in advance.
- Sandbags help divert flowing water but are generally considered to be of limited use when trying to protect property. We would encourage homeowners to take advice on whether purpose made flood protection products, such as flood boards, non-return valves for plumbing and air brick covers, are a better option to protect property.
- The National Flood Forum is a registered charity and offer advice on purchasing sandbags and flood defence products: www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk