



# HOW TO SANDBAG YOUR HOME

**Sandbags placed in appropriate locations around your home can help minimize the impact of flooding.**

**While they will not stop the water completely, sandbags can help reduce the amount of water entering your home and damaging your property if they are used correctly.**

**While it is a straightforward process to fill and lay sandbags, filled sandbags can weigh between 15-20 kg (50 lbs) so you may need at least 2 people to lay them safely.**

## HOW TO FILL A SANDBAG

- ✗ Do not overfill sandbags
- ✗ Do not tie the top of the bag.
- ✓ Only fill sandbags 2/3 full. This allows the sand to shift about inside the bag, lie flat and mold to fill in any gaps.



## Work Safely

Do not try to lift a sandbag that is too heavy for you. Wear work gloves as well as goggles or safety glasses to prevent sand blowing into your eyes.



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## Where do I place the sandbags?

- Build a sandbag wall across external doorways, this includes sliding doors and garage doors.
- Place sandbags across entrances to basement windows or vents at the bottom of external walls.

The height of the sandbag wall will depend on the expected height of the floodwater, however, it is generally 2-3 sandbag rows high.



## How do I lay sandbags?

- Lay sandbags as you would lay bricks, offsetting the rows so the gaps between the sandbags are staggered. It is best to offset each row by a half a sandbag.
- If available, use plastic sheeting under the sandbags and continue it up the surface you are protecting to reduce water seepage.
- Start at one end and work through to the other end.
- Tuck the flap under each sandbag and at the end of the row.
- Flattening the top of the sandbag wall before adding the next row will help you to build a more stable sandbag wall.



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