



USING  
SANDBAGS  
CORRECTLY

## Using Sandbags Correctly

Sandbags placed in appropriate locations around your home or business can reduce the impact of flooding. Sandbag walls are not waterproof and will not stop the water completely, but using plastic sheeting may reduce the amount of water entering.

## Sandbag Collection

Sandbags can be purchased at major hardware stores, landscape supplies and other retailers.

Only in emergency or disaster situations, the SES may offer sandbags and sand for residential customers. A limited supply of free sandbags (and sand) may be available for collection from designated SES and Council depots during a storm or flood event.

It is important to be prepared and purchase/prepare your own sandbags prior to an event rather than rely on the SES. Sandbags may be in limited supply and may only be issued by the SES or Council on a case-by-case basis.



## Filling Sandbags

Residents may be required to fill their own sandbags. Should any resident be unable to do so, they are advised to contact the SES on 132 500 to make alternative arrangements.

- Use sand, or another appropriate filling that has weight, such as dirt, to fill – they only need to be filled to 2/3 full.
- Do not over fill the bags as they will be too heavy to carry.
- There is no need to tie the top of the bag.





## Laying Sandbags

Sandbags should be placed over floor drains and drainage holes, such as showers and in laundries or bathrooms, to prevent backflow of contaminated water. Sandbags should also be used in front of doorways, roller doors and brickwork vents.

- If possible build the base of your sandbag wall against a structure to prevent the sandbags from moving due to pressure from the floodwater.
- Place down a layer of plastic sheeting to act as the water proofing skin.
- Flatten and lay sandbags like brickwork with the long edge facing the flow of water on top of the plastic sheeting.
- Ensure the unfilled open part of the bag is covered by the next bag and tuck the flap under the bag at the end of the row.
- Stagger rows so that the joins do not line up and weave plastic sheeting or tarp under the sandbags.

## Disposing of Sandbags

- Care should be taken when handling wet sandbags, sturdy gloves should be worn as floodwater can contain chemicals, harmful waste and contaminants.
- Used sandbags that have not come into contact with oil or other contaminants can be opened and the sand scattered on lawns and gardens as topsoil, where it will not wash into storm water drains. The empty bags should be placed in the general waste bin.
- Sandbags that have come into contact with floodwaters need to be thrown away and can be disposed of at a Council waste facility.
- Don't return used sandbags to the depot or place full sandbags that have been used in the general waste bin.



## Storing Sandbags

It is not advisable to store pre-filled sandbags as they can rot. Empty sandbags can be stored in a dry place out of the sun.

## What else can I do to protect my home or business?

- Secure objects that could float away.
- Be prepared to stack furniture and possessions up high out of the way of floodwaters.
- Turn off power and gas.
- For other ways to protect your home and family during a flood, visit:  
**[logan.qld.gov.au/disasters](http://logan.qld.gov.au/disasters)**  
for more information.

## Useful Websites

[logan.qld.gov.au/disasters](http://logan.qld.gov.au/disasters)

[disaster.qld.gov.au/Be\\_Prepared/sandbagging](http://disaster.qld.gov.au/Be_Prepared/sandbagging)

## For more information

Phone **3412 3412**

In an emergency the SES can be contacted on **132 500**.

