



Violet Town Local Flood Guide

Flash flood information for the Honeysuckle Creek and Lambing Gunyah – Long Gully Creek at Violet Town



2010 flood on Honeysuckle Creek



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on **132 500**

This flood guide was developed in partnership between:



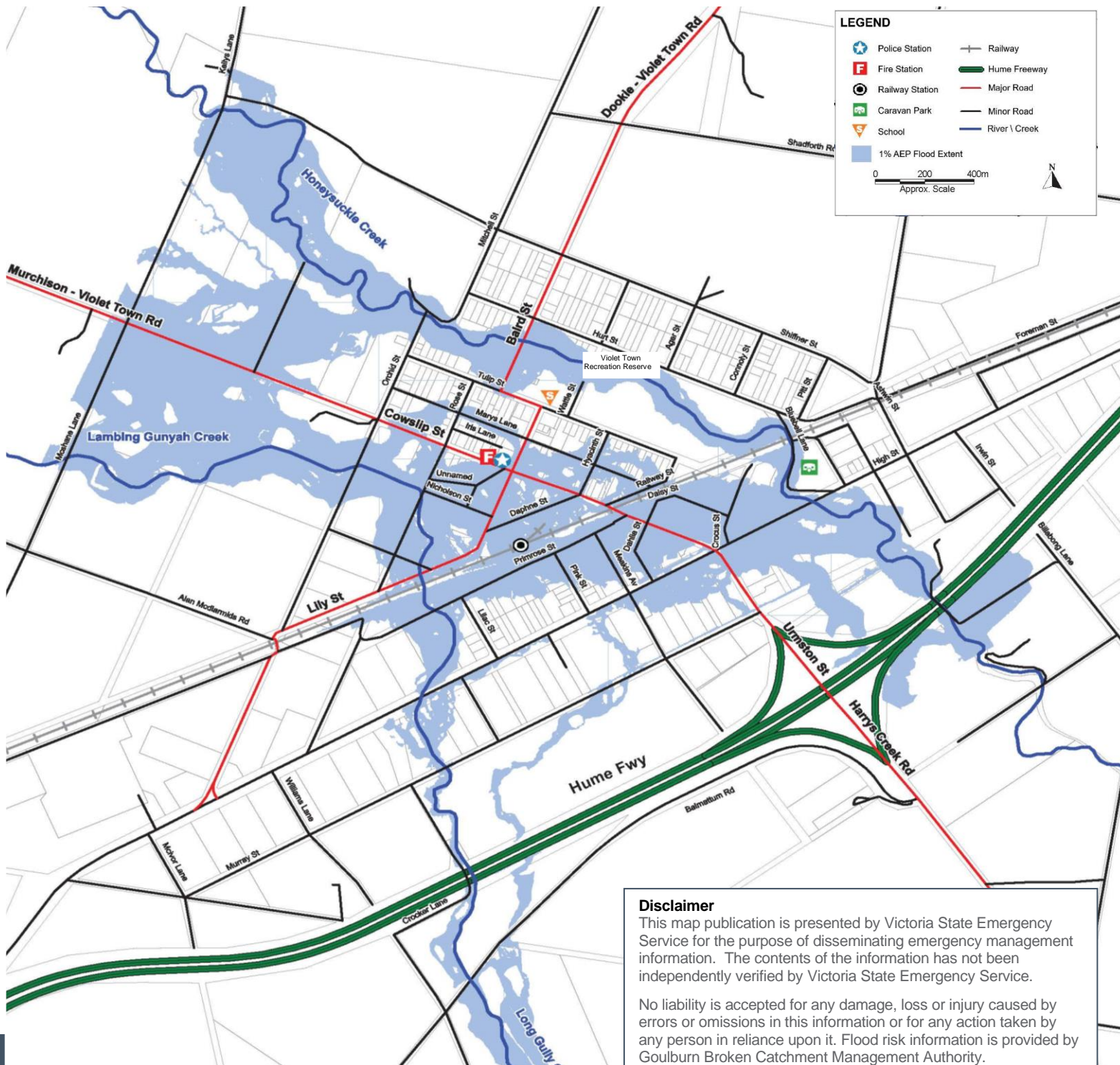


Violet Town is located close to the Hume Freeway between Euroa and Benalla within Strathbogie Shire. Two main creeks flow through town, the Honeysuckle Creek and Lambing Gunyah Creek (also known as Long Gully Creek). The larger Honeysuckle Creek flows from near Boho, through Violet Town and joins Seven Creeks near Kialla in Shepparton.

Due to the small, steep nature of the Honeysuckle Creek catchment, Violet Town is often affected by flash flooding. Flash flooding can happen quickly during or after very heavy local rainstorms. In the past, the town has been impacted by floodwater within 3 to 6 hours of heavy rain in the surrounding hilly catchment.

With such a short time before floods can affect the town, waiting for official flash flood warnings should not be relied upon. Residents need to take responsibility for their own safety by keeping watch on what is happening around you, monitoring rainfall, checking creek levels and knowing where to find local flood advice and information.

This map shows the likely flooding of a 1% flood in Violet Town. This means there is a 1% chance of a flood measuring 4.18m at the Baird Street gauge on Honeysuckle Creek in any given year.





Violet Town’s recorded flood history dates from 1844 with big floods in 1903, 1916 (highest recorded), 1939, 1968, 1974, 1993, 1999 and 2010.

Flooding usually affects parts of town including areas around the Violet Town Nursing Home, properties south of the railway line, and in farmland north and west of town in the Lambing Gunyah and Honeysuckle Creek floodplains. The town often becomes isolated as most surrounding roads can be covered by floodwater.

The big 1993 flood was caused by intense rainfall from thunderstorms on an already wet catchment. Smaller floods in 2010 and 2011 had little impact in town but did affect some rural properties.

The 2010 Honeysuckle Creek flood saw parts of the town evacuated as a precaution when rainfall exceeded forecasts. The Dookie-Violet Town Road and the Murchison-Violet Town Road at Violet Town were closed and disrupted travel around the area. To watch a video of this flood, go to [youtube.com/watch?v=g9xwJOYPKXs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9xwJOYPKXs).

Did you know?

The recent effects of changing climate, particularly on storm activity and the intensity of rainfall, are something that may bring more frequent or different kinds of flooding to Violet Town.

During large floods, the Melbourne-Sydney railway line which divides the town in half, often acts as a barrier to floodwater flowing through and draining away from the town. Floodwater banking-up against the railway track, can result in deep flooding in the area south of the tracks, sometimes in a big flood, even flowing over the top of low sections of the railway tracks.

During the 1993 flood, Violet Town was severely impacted, including:

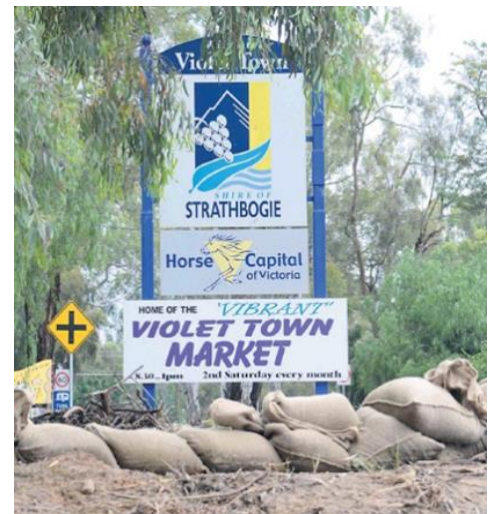
- Most of the town was affected with floodwater coming from 2 directions: Long Gully (upstream of Violet Town) and Lambing Gunyah Creeks (downstream of Violet Town). Floodwater levels rose so quickly that the town was flooding in three hours.
- 40 houses between Murray Street and High Street were flooded to 1.2 metres deep.
- 18 people were evacuated from their homes.
- The Catholic Church, the old Masonic Hall, nine businesses and the Nursing Home were affected
- Water spilled over the railway line into Railway, Cowslip and Lily Streets.

If a flood like 1993 happened today, above floor flooding is likely to affect 46 houses and 17 businesses in Violet Town.

So, it is important that you know what to do to stay safe, before, during and after a flood.



1916 - Farmers Arms Hotel, Cowslip St which burnt down in 1968 and is now the Violet Town Police Station.



No two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live in a low-lying area, you may be at risk of flooding or need to detour around flooded areas.



Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Warnings tell people about Severe Weather and Thunderstorms which may include information about very heavy rainfall leading to possible Riverine (flooding from rivers or creeks) or Flash Flooding.

A **BOM Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.




A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are 3 levels of flood warnings: Minor, Moderate and Major warnings. In some areas these are issued by BOM. However, for Violet Town, the BoM does not issue detailed flood predictions or Minor, Moderate or Major flood warnings. See below how SES can issue warnings for Violet Town.



VicEmergency Flood Warnings for Violet Town

SES can issue flood warnings using VicEmergency based on reported or observed flooding in the town which may have Minor, Moderate or Major impacts and effects.

The table below gives examples of flood impacts, based on what is happening, that can determine which warning level may be issued.

 A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
Spill over riverbanks and cover nearby low-lying areas.	Spill over riverbanks and cover larger areas of land.	Cause widespread flooding.
Come up through drains in nearby streets.	Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings.	Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
Require the removal of stock in some cases.	Require evacuation in some areas.	Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
Cover riverside camping areas and affect some low-lying caravan parks.	Affect traffic routes.	Closes major roads and rail routes.
Cover minor roads paths, tracks and low-level bridges.	Require the removal of stock in rural areas.	Require many evacuations.
Affect backyards and buildings below floor level.		Affect utility services (power, water, sewage etc).

Flash Flood Warnings for Violet Town

SES can also issue Flash Flood warnings based on local reports, observations, and monitoring storms. Due to the steep nature of the catchment, Flash flood impacts can affect Violet Town in about 3 hours. They can happen so quickly that you may not receive an official warning.

In any emergency, you should never wait for a warning to take action to stay safe.



- Stay informed: talk to neighbours, check weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the [BoM website \(www.bom.gov.au\)](http://www.bom.gov.au) and warnings through the [VicEmergency \(www.emergency.vic.gov.au\)](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) app or the VicEmergency telephone Hotline 1800 226 226.
- In the VicEmergency app, [Set a Watch Zone \(https://vicemergency.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb\)](https://vicemergency.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb) go to *How do I create a watch zone* for your location to ensure you receive the latest warnings and information about any emergency issued for the:
 - Northern Country weather district
 - Goulburn Broken Catchment
 - Honeysuckle and/or Lambing Gunyah - Long Gully Creeks
- Listen for warnings to be read out over local radio emergency broadcasters:
ABC 97.7 FM, HIT 96.9 FM, TRIPLE M 95.3 FM, UGFM 88.9 FM or 98.9 FM.

Honeysuckle Creek flood levels at the Baird Street gauge

The Baird St gauge is not automatically monitored by the BoM but is checked manually and frequently during floods. The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will include Creek heights in their flood warnings to help you make more informed decisions.

The river height gauge upstream of Violet Town in Sawpit Gully Road, Boho is automatically monitored by the BoM and may be used in flood warnings. See page 7 for more information.

Height in metres	Design Flood (AEP)	Baird Street Gauge Flood Impacts likely in and around Violet Town
4.27 m	1 in 500	Water continues to bank up south of the railway line likely to be one metre or deeper. 92 properties likely to be flooded above floor level. Vast areas of deep rural flooding north and west of town.
4.23 m	1 in 200 0.5 % chance in any year	Water building up south of the railway line to one metre or deeper. 73 properties and the Nursing Home likely to be flooded above floor level. Water up to half a metre deep near Police and Fire stations. Extensive rural flooding north and west of town.
4.18 m	1 in 100 1% chance in any year	1993 flood level (approximate)/1% flood level. Height shown on map page 2. Water likely to build up south of the railway line between half to one metre deep, or more in places. 63 properties likely to be flooded above floor level in sections of Baird, Cowslip, Crocus, Dahlia, Daisy, Daphne, High, Hyacinth, Lily, Nicholson, Primrose, Railway, Rose and Tulip Streets. Water surrounds the Nursing Home with some reported minor inundation. Widespread rural flooding north and west of town.
4.11 m	1 in 50 2% chance in any year	Water likely to build up south of the railway line to one metre deep. 55 properties likely to be flooded above floor level in areas of Baird, Cowslip, Dahlia, Daisy, Daphne, High, Hyacinth, Lily, Primrose, Rose and Tulip Streets. Significant rural flooding north and west of town.
3.97 m	1 in 20 5% chance in any year	Many rural properties flooded north and west of town along Lambing Gunyah and Honeysuckle Creek floodplains. Water likely to continue building up south of railway line. 37 properties flooded above floor level in Baird, Cowslip, Dahlia, Daisy, Daphne, Hyacinth, Lily, Primrose, Rose and Tulip Streets.
3.86 m	1 in 10 10% chance any year	Floodwater up to 25 centimetres deep around the Police and Fire stations. Floodwater builds up south of the railway line. Properties are likely to be flooded in low areas of Baird, Cowslip, Daisy, Hyacinth, Primrose and Rose Streets.

This Baird St Gauge table lists possible impacts that could occur at a particular flood height. The “Design Flood AEP” section gives the connection between gauge heights and design floods that are given in more detail in the [Goulburn Broken Community Flood Intelligence Portal](#). (See p.6)



Sharing flood risk information with communities is key to improving flood resilience and community safety. To help do this GBCMA and Strathbogie Shire Council have co-funded the development of the Community Flood Intelligence Portal.

The key role of the **Goulburn Broken Community Flood Intelligence Portal** is to find out how far floodwater is likely to spread and how high floodwater might rise in certain floods. Councils also have a responsibility to consider and land subject to flooding in their planning, zoning and development approvals.

Go to **Goulburn Broken Community Flood Intelligence Portal**: my.floodreport.com.au/gbcm
You can search for:

- Riverine Flood Maps (flooding from rivers or creeks),
- Historical Floods
- Nearby flood gauges, and
- Design floods. The table on page 5 gives the connection between gauge heights and design floods.

A report for your property can be downloaded from the **Flood Portal** page. Click on the Strathbogie Shire icon, then click on **Violet Town** and follow the steps to **Create Property Flood Report Search for Address**. Select the flood size, then type in your street address. This will show a flood map with your property marked by a red line. Click on **Property Report** to see more detailed information.

This information does not replace the need for planning permits under the Municipal Planning Scheme, nor written advice from Catchment Management Authorities. Use of this web portal is subject to terms and conditions, which can be read and downloaded in the Portal. By using this web portal, you are agreeing to these terms and conditions.



Boho Gauge Information

The table at right shows historic flood heights of the Honeysuckle Creek at the Boho gauge upstream (uphill) of Violet Town. This information can help guide you as to what could happen if you hear a flood warning based on the Boho gauge.

You can view Honeysuckle Creek rainfall levels at the [Strathbogrie North rainfall](#) gauge (site 82043) on the BoM website: bom.gov.au/vic/flood/goulburn_broken.shtml

Flood History	Height at Honeysuckle Ck on the Boho Gauge
October 1993	Unknown (gauge damaged). Estimated as a 1% flood.
December 2010	1.58 m
September 2010	1.27 m
August 1996	1.20 m
February 2011	1.12 m
November 1992 and July 1990	0.97 m
April 2020	0.94 m
October 2016	0.86 m
August 2012	0.81 m

Your Emergency Plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies reduce the impact and recover faster. Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly and have more control to make better decisions when an emergency occurs.



Visit redcross.org.au/prepare to create your plan for ANY

Your Emergency “survival” Kit To watch the kit video go to <https://vimeo.com/595111060>

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with at least 3 days supply of:

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:



Write YOUR own important items list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit

Special needs (e.g. for babies, the elderly, pets etc) _____

Photos _____

Family keepsakes _____

Valuables _____

Other _____



Warnings, Staying Informed and Important Contacts

Life-threatening Emergency 000 Triple Zero

- Current warnings - VicEmergency [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) **Hotline:** 1800 226 226
- Emergency Radio Broadcasters
 - ABC 97.7 FM HIT 96.9 FM
 - TRIPLE M 95.3 FM UGFM 88.9FM or 98.9FM
 - SKY NEWS Television
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) [bom.gov.au/vic/warnings](https://www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings) 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](https://www.traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)
- VICSES Social Media [facebook.com/vicses](https://www.facebook.com/vicses) [twitter.com/vicsesnews](https://www.twitter.com/vicsesnews)
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies [ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready](https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready)
- Creating an Emergency Plan [redcross.org.au/prepare](https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare)
- Catchment Management Authority [gbcma.vic.gov.au/](https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/) 03 5822 7700
- Strathbogie Shire Council [strathbogie.vic.gov.au](https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au) 1800 065 993
- National Relay Service (NRS) [relayservice.gov.au](https://www.relayservice.gov.au)

Australian Warning System Warnings via VicEmergency



SES issues warnings to provide you with information to help you make good decisions to protect you, your family and your property. The warning level is based on severity (danger level), local conditions and the likelihood of community impact.

SES uses the VicEmergency “all emergencies” app, website, and telephone hotline to distribute flood, storm, landslide, earthquake and tsunami warnings and emergency information in Victoria. You can also access warnings from SES’s social media and radio emergency broadcasters.

WARNING LEVELS

	<p>EMERGENCY WARNING</p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category. Evacuation advice might be included in this warning</p>
	<p>WATCH AND ACT</p> <p>An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others. A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category. Evacuation advice might be included in this warning</p>
	<p>ADVICE</p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>EMERGENCY ALERT</p> <p>During some emergencies, communities may be alerted by an SMS text message sent to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p>

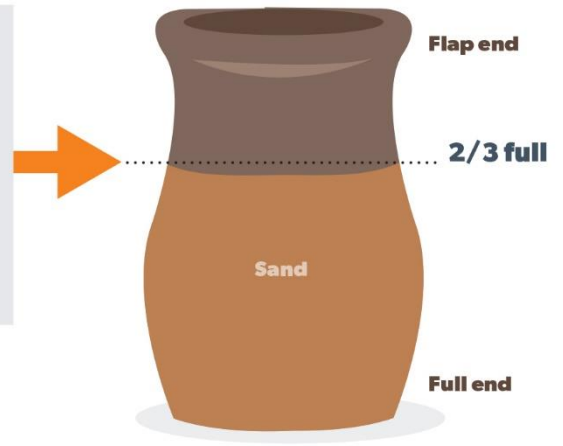


Sandbagging

Sandbags won't stop the water completely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your home.

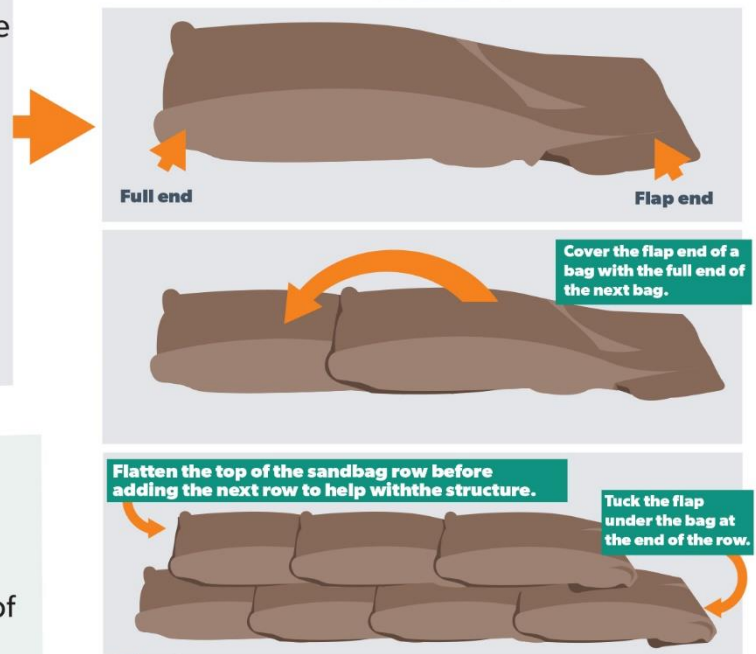
How do I fill a sandbag?

- Only use sand to fill hessian bags. Do not use dirt.
- Only fill sandbag two-thirds full.
- Do not over fill the sandbag as it will be too heavy to carry.
- Do not tie the top of the sandbag.
- Take care when filling and lifting the sandbag, to avoid injury.



How do I lay sandbags?

- Lay sandbags like brickwork. Stagger rows so that the joins do not line up.
- 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.



Where do I place the sandbags?

- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (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 seepage.

Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



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.
- Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of your sandbags safely.



Flood checklist

Get ready, have a plan, know what to do...

Taking the time to plan for emergencies helps you think more clearly, have a greater sense of control, and make better decisions when an emergency happens.

Make sure you'll receive warnings and emergency information in Victoria

- Install the VicEmergency App and create a Watch Zone
- Use [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au): for all hazards, all emergencies
- Note the VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226
- Note your local Emergency Broadcaster e.g. ABC Radio 97.7FM/106.5FM

Find local flood information

- Find Local Flood Guides for most flood prone communities at ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
- Connect with neighbours, other locals, or your local SES Unit to learn about past floods.
- Contact your Catchment Management Authority (CMA) for localised flood information floodvictoria.vic.gov.au/prepare-prevent/risks (Select from map of CMAs)

Plan and Prepare

- Install the Red Cross Get Prepared Smart phone app and follow the steps or complete the Australian Red Cross RediPlan booklet at redcross.org.au/prepare
- Keep a emergency kit – with enough for 3 days in an emergency.
- Food, water, protective gloves, masks, medications and prescriptions, first aid and personal hygiene items, a waterproof torch, toilet paper, chargers, battery powered radio, batteries, reading glasses, essentials for babies and pets, spare clothing, and comfort items, especially for children and people with a disability.
- COVID-Normal* - Don't forget sanitiser, soap and face coverings.

Take action to reduce impacts at your property

- Keep gutters and drains clear of debris, outdoor furniture, toys etc.
- Check your building and contents insurance. What type of flooding does it cover?
- Put your most valuable possessions up high, above possible floodwater height.
- Backup important files and documents to a USB kept elsewhere, or to cloud storage.
- Identify higher ground on your property or further away from the danger area.
- Learn about sandbagging at ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
- Consider buying sand and sandbags at home ahead of time, especially if you live in a flood prone area.

When a flood emergency happens

- Monitor VicEmergency warnings and information.
- Never drive through floodwater – this is the No.1 killer in floods. It takes just 15cm of floodwater to float a small car.
- Watch what is happening around you and activate your plan.
- **Bag it, block it, lift it, and leave** – see *Plan to stay dry* over page
- Take your emergency kit and identification e.g.. Drivers licence, passport
- If you are impacted, register at the Relief Centre or with your local council, to get the help you need.
- Monitor VicEmergency for when it's safe to return and for Recovery information.



Download the VicEmergency app

Visit: [emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare)

Or download the app from:



Home emergency kit

 Emergency plan	 Radio	 Torch
 Spare batteries	 Documents & records	 First aid kit
 Long life food	 Safe drinking water	 Gloves


Emergency kit