

# Sandbagging

Sandbags will not stop the water completely but can reduce the amount of water entering your home.

During low level flooding, sandbags placed in the right locations around your home can reduce the impact of flooding. As little as 25 sandbags can reduce the damage to your home built on a slab. It is not necessary to place a sandbag wall around your house to provide protection.

Sandbags or similar products can be purchased from many hardware or garden supply stores.

## How do I fill the 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.

TIP: Flattening the top of the sandbag row before adding the next row will help the structure.

Step 1: Flap down



Step 2: overlap



## Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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.



## 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.