



Local Flood Guide

Genoa, Gipsy Point and Mallacoota

Understand, prepare, and respond effectively to your flood risk.



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening
call triple zero 000

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Victorian State Emergency Service acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past and present.

Disclaimer: Victoria State Emergency Service assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions for any of the content in this document.

Cover: Genoa River at Bridles Bend, 2009. *East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.*

Content reviewed: November 2025



For more information visit: ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe

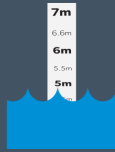
Local flood information

Towns within the area that are most likely to be impacted during a flood event are:

- Genoa
- Gypsy Point
- Mallocoota
- Wangarabell



There have been 9 significant flood events in the Genoa Valley between 1975 and 2011.



The largest flood on record was in 1978, when the Genoa River peaked at 4.8m at Genoa River at The Gorge.



Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why do Genoa, Gypsy Point and Mallocoota flood?

Genoa, Gypsy Point and Mallocoota are at risk of both **riverine flooding** and **flash flooding**, which can happen separately or at the same time. Both are usually caused by heavy rainfall.

Riverine flooding

This happens when the Genoa River, Wallagaraugh River or Mallocoota Inlet rises and overflows their banks, and spill water onto land.

- Genoa and Wangarabell are built along the Genoa River, while Gypsy Point and Mallocoota are built around Wallagaraugh River and Mallocoota Inlet. Parts of the towns are on the floodplain, the naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Rainfall from as far away as New South Wales can end up flowing into the Genoa River, Wallagaraugh River and Mallocoota Inlet potentially causing, or adding to flooding.
- Low-lying coastal areas in Mallocoota Inlet may flood due to storm surges caused by strong winds and low pressure during storms, resulting in an abnormal rise in sea level and the formation of large waves.
- Abnormally high tides are a natural and predictable exceptionally high tide where the ocean meets the land. They may cause or add to existing flooding.

Flash flooding

This type of flooding can happen quickly and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage.

- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool.
- Genoa River and may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.

How do floods impact communities?



Buildings flooded



Road closures



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



Mobile and internet network outage

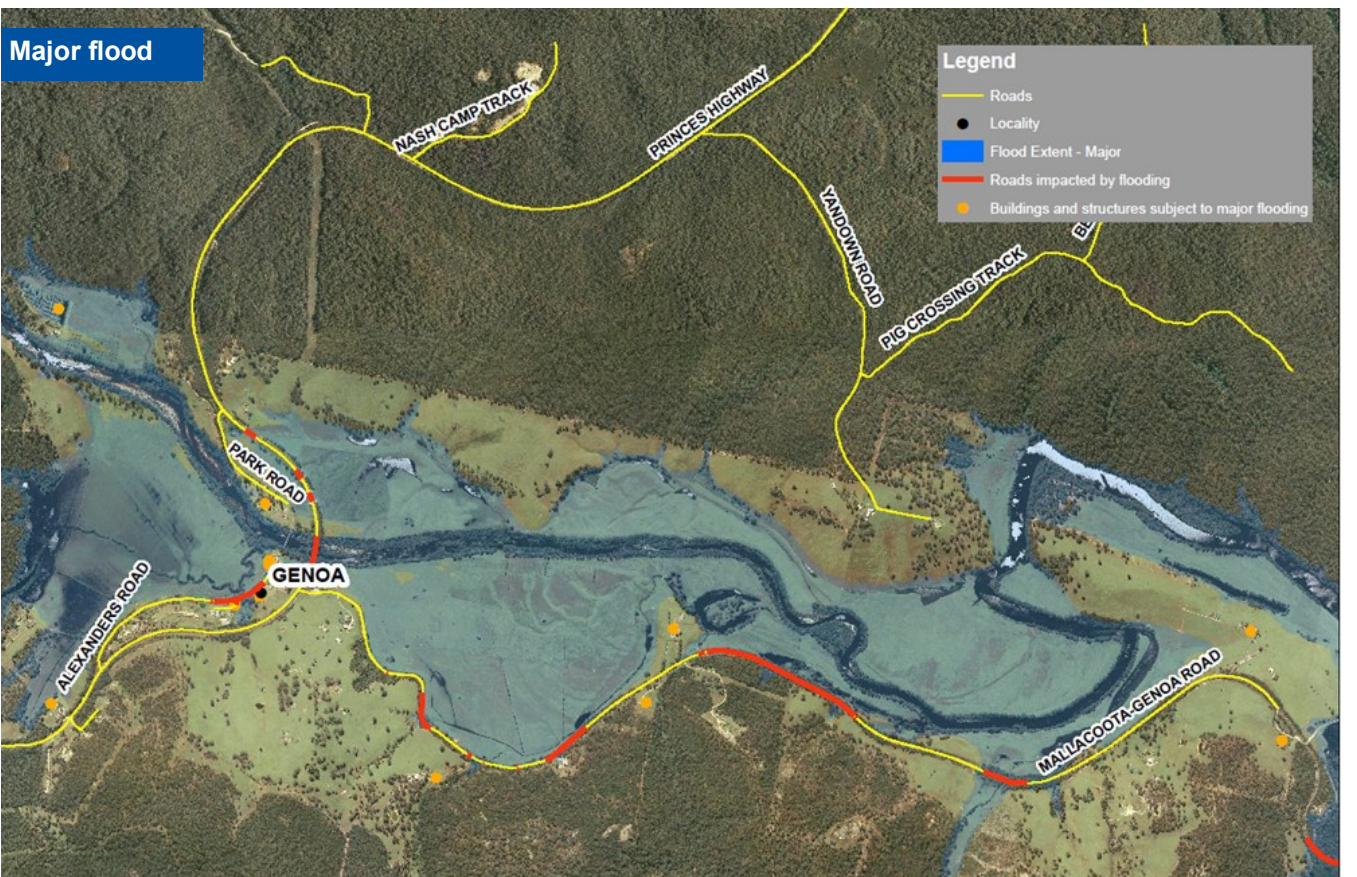
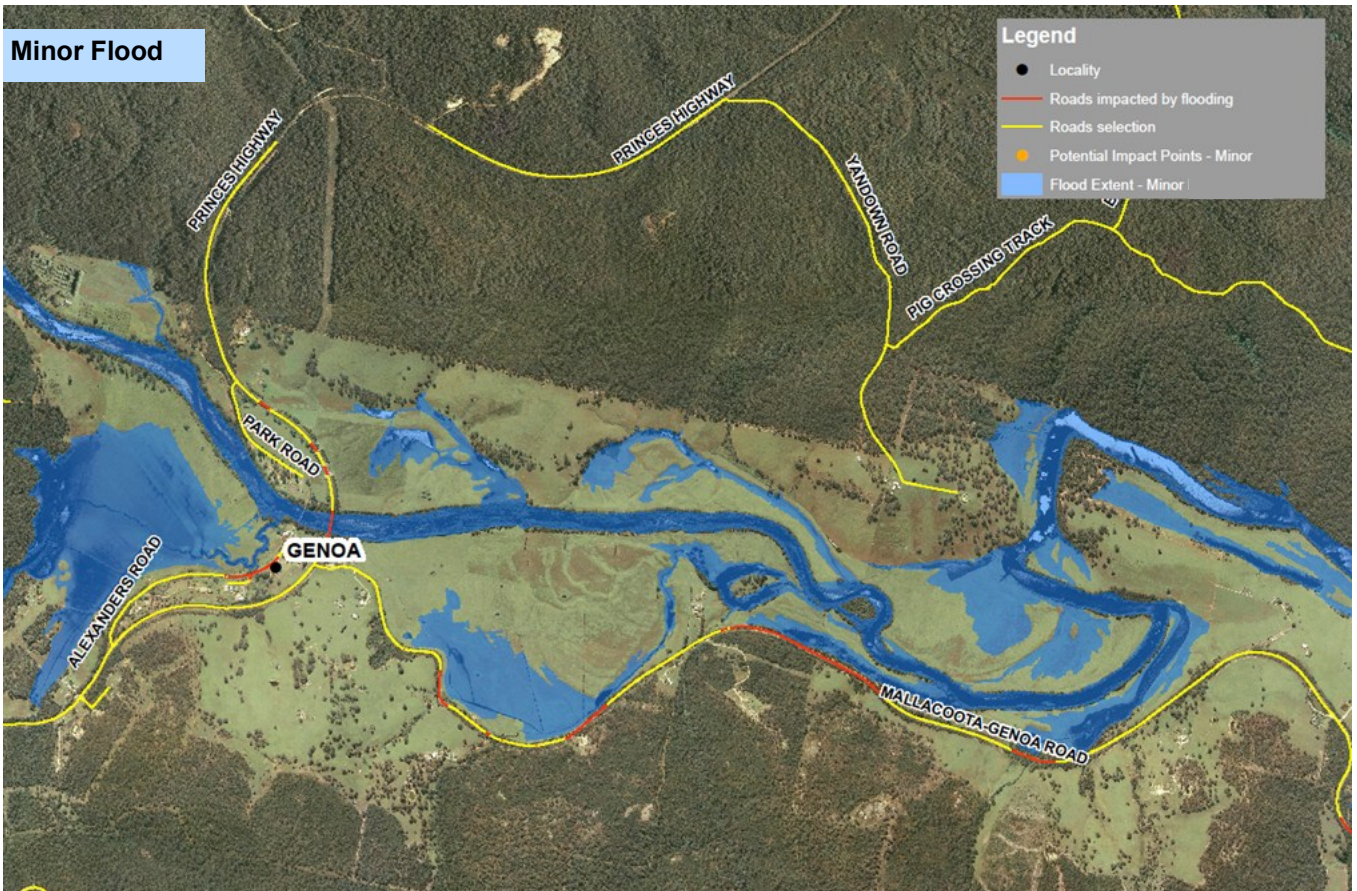


Sewage overflows inside building

Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If these maps show potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 8](#) for more information.

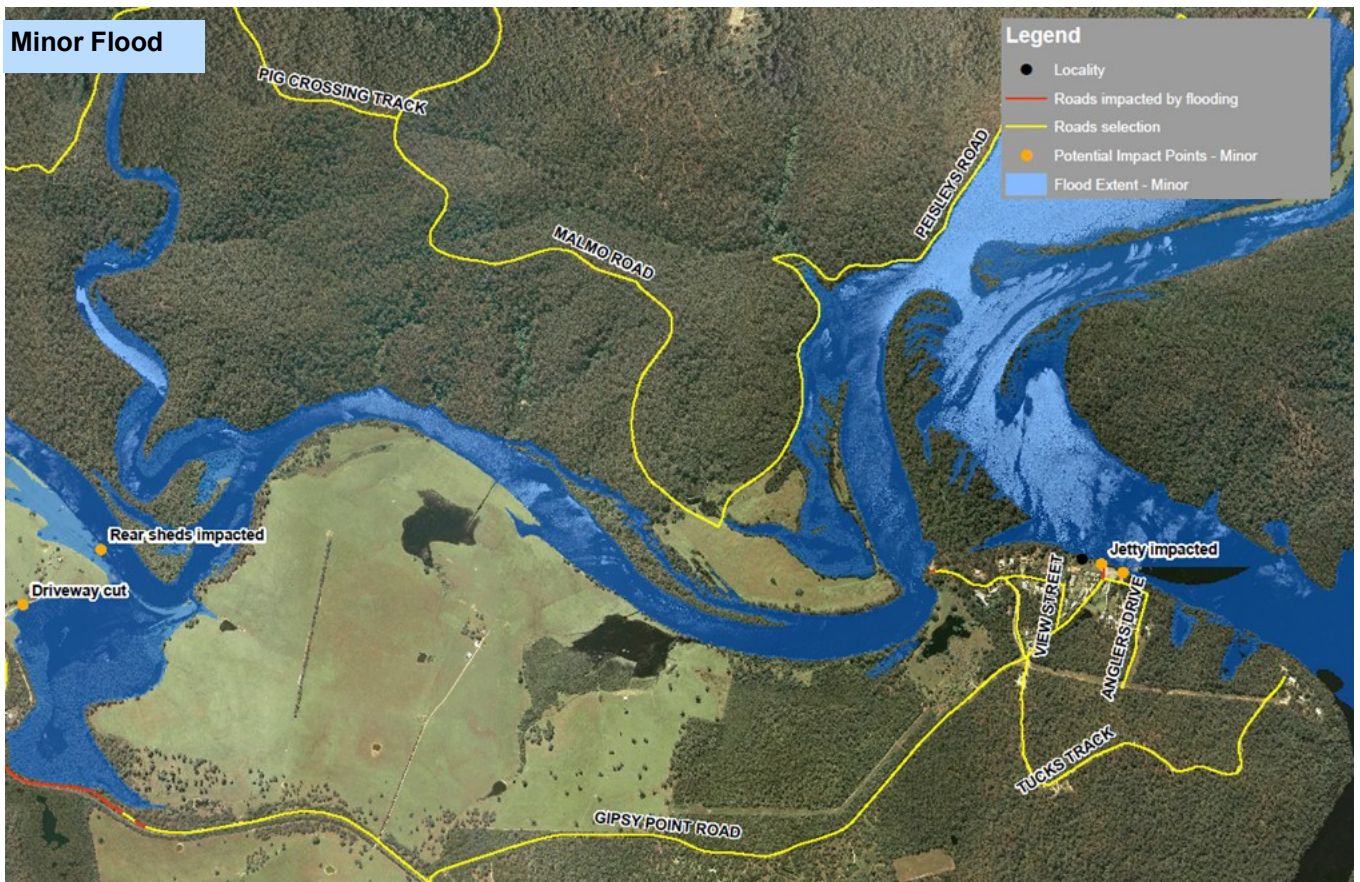
- These map shows the area of Genoa likely to flood in a minor (1.9 metres) and major (4.0m) flood, based on the height of floodwater at the Genoa River gauge at Genoa Gorge.



Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 8](#) for more information.

- These map shows the area of Gipsy Point likely to flood in a minor (1.9m) and major (4.0 metres) flood, based on the height of floodwater at the Genoa River gauge at Genoa Gorge.



What might happen in a flood in your area?

- **Before a flood:** Use the floodwater heights in the table to help you decide when you will need to act to protect yourself and your property in a flood event.
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted floodwater height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community.

Floodwater Height (metres)*	Potential impacts^
1.9m	<p>Minor flood level</p> <p>The Genoa River rises and starts to spill over into low lying floodplains, creeks and other areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Road is impacted by flood water. • Areas of Peisleys Road after Malma Road are affected by flood water. • The water level at Gipsy Point may rise making the public and private jetties unsafe.
2.2m	<p>Moderate flood level</p> <p>The Genoa River floodwater continues to rise and spill into the floodplain, roads, tracks and areas close to the river affecting travel routes and access to properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallacoota Road west of Premier Track, near Mangan Lake is closed due to floodwater over the road, potentially isolating the Gipsy Point and Mallacoota communities. • Gipsy Point Road at the boat ramp and Anglers Drive are impacted by floodwater. • Floodwater along Peisleys Road continues to rise reaching depths of 1.2m in some areas. • Park Road and Genoa Campground is now flooded. • Low lying areas of riverside properties will be impacted by flood water.
3.1m	<p>December 2023 flood event</p>
4.0m	<p>Major flood level</p> <p>The Genoa River continues to rise and expand across the floodplains, affecting travel routes, access to homes and begins to flood some low lying residences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallacoota Road between Princes Highway and Premier Track is closed due to flood water with some areas having dangerous, fast flowing water at 1.2m depth. • Alexander Road and Bass Court are closed due to flood waters with some areas having dangerous, fast flowing water at 1.2m depth. • Anglers Road at Gipsy Point Road is inundated with flood water affecting low lying homes and isolating residents of Anglers Road.
4.8m	<p>1978 flood event</p>
5.23m	<p>1% AEP flood event</p> <p>This is referred to as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), which means there is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening in any year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Princes Highway near the Genoa River bridge can be closed. • Genoa Post Office and Genoa Hotel are isolated by floodwater at 0.5m depth. • Properties at Genoa and Gipsy Point continue to be impacted by rising and in some areas, dangerous fast flowing flood waters.

*The height measurement is at the [Gorge gauge on the Genoa River](#).

^This table includes information from previous flood studies and scientific models used to predict impacts at different flood heights and flows.

What roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, the roads listed could be closed leading to isolation of the Gipsy Point and Mallacoota townships, and individual properties.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#).

[VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 8](#) for more information.

East Gippsland Emergency Dashboard

East Gippsland Shire Council's Emergency Dashboard provides community with centralised real-time access to emergency information including weather, emergency warnings, road closures, river heights and power outages.

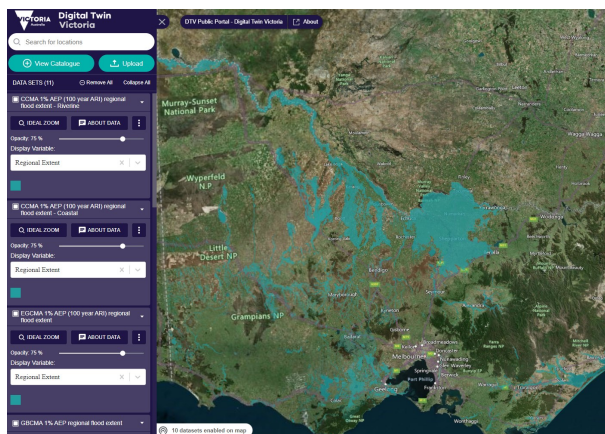
To support community preparedness the East Gippsland Emergency Dashboard provides access to:

- Local Flood Guides, via the Victoria State Emergency Service website, and
- Community Emergency Management Plans and Local Incident Management Plans on the 'Your Community' page.

Go to emergencydashboard.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



View the interactive flood map on Digital Twin Victoria (DTV)



The [Digital Twin Victoria Public Portal](#) brings together 2D, 3D and live data in a single online place for everyone to use. The portal hosts some flood mapping data.

- Use the map to zoom in on where you live, work and travel to see if it's likely to be affected in a flood event.

Go to digitaltwin.vic.gov.au



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 8](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For flood advice and information on flood levels or depths when developing your property.

- **East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**
egcma.com.au | 03 5152 1184

Local Council

For relief and recovery support after a flood event.

- **East Gippsland Shire Council**
eastgippsland.vic.gov.au
03 5153 9500

Plan and prepare for floods

1 How to stay informed

VicEmergency is Victoria's source of emergency information and warnings.

- Set-up a watch zone for your area for alerts when warnings are issued.
- Learn about the three different warning levels.

 VicEmergency app
emergency.vic.gov.au
1800 226 226

 vicemergency

 @vicemergency



2 Make an Emergency Plan

Use information from your Local Flood Guide and your Catchment Management Authority, to help you decide;

- What you will do in a flood emergency
- When you will do it
- Who you will inform



Red Cross RediPlan is a free tool that helps you create a simple emergency plan that supports the flood actions you have chosen.

- Visit redcross.org.au/prepare
- Download the [Get Prepared](#) app

3 Prepare an emergency kit

 Power bank	 Radio	 Drinking water
 Spare batteries	 Documents & records	 First aid kit
 Long life food	 Torch	 Gloves

Emergency kit



You may need to stay safe for 72 hours in a disaster before help arrives. Make sure you have safe drinking water, food, and any special needs or medications for all family.



There will be extra items to be added to your emergency kit in an emergency like clothes, a phone and charger.



Watch a video on how to get your Emergency kit ready.
youtu.be/XgyLnKDMkNo

4 Reduce impacts to your property

- Keep gutters and drains clear of debris including leaves and any other items.
- Check your building and contents insurance, what kind of flooding does it cover?
- Move your valuable possessions up high.
- Back up important files and documents to a cloud storage or USB kept elsewhere.
- Identify higher ground on or around your property, away from the danger area.
- Consider buying sand and sandbags ahead of time, refer to our Sandbag Guide for more information.

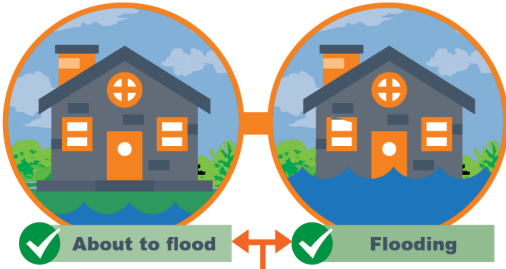



For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



What to do in a flood emergency

When to call VICSES



 **Flood emergency assistance call VICSES 132 500**

 **If life threatening call triple zero 000**

Stay Informed

VicEmergency

Emergency warnings will provide information on what is happening and advice of what you should do.

You may not receive an official warning before a flood.



VicEmergency app
emergency.vic.gov.au

1800 226 226



vicemergency @vicemergency



■ Set-up a watch zone for alerts for your area.

Bureau of Meteorology



Monitor rainfall, river levels, weather forecasts/warnings.

bom.gov.au/vic/flood/east_gippsland.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 100.7FM or 828AM, REFGM 105.5, TRFM 99.9

TV | Sky News

If you expect floodwater at your property

1



Bag it

Sandbag doorways and low-lying windows to slow floodwater entering your home.

2



Block it

Block toilets, bath and drains using a sandbag ideally placed inside a plastic rubbish bag.

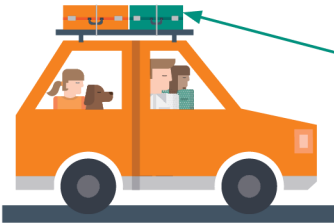
3



Lift it

Put your valuables and electrical items as high as possible. Turn off power, gas, and water at the mains.

4



Leave

- Leave **before** the flood arrives.
- Check warnings from VicEmergency for information like evacuation or relief centres, and road closures.
- Travel to the home of family or friends who are in a safe location, away from the flooded area.

Take your emergency kit and add the items below:



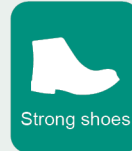
Phone & charger



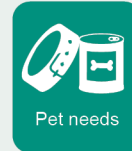
Prescriptions & medication



Clothes for your family



Strong shoes



Pet needs

Never drive through floodwater

Large



A Large 4WD can be moved by water only 45cm deep.

Small



A small car can be moved by water only 15cm deep.



For more details and other tips, visit:

ses.vic.gov.au/flood

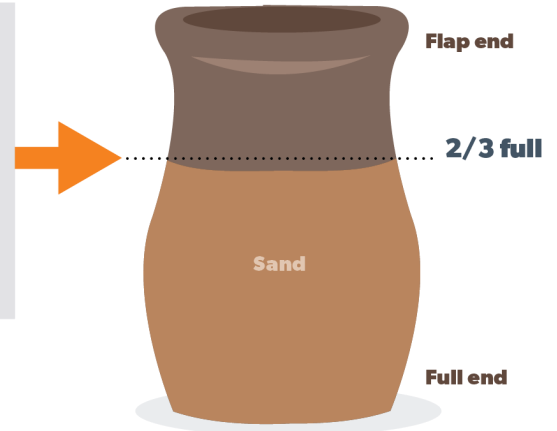


Sandbagging

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

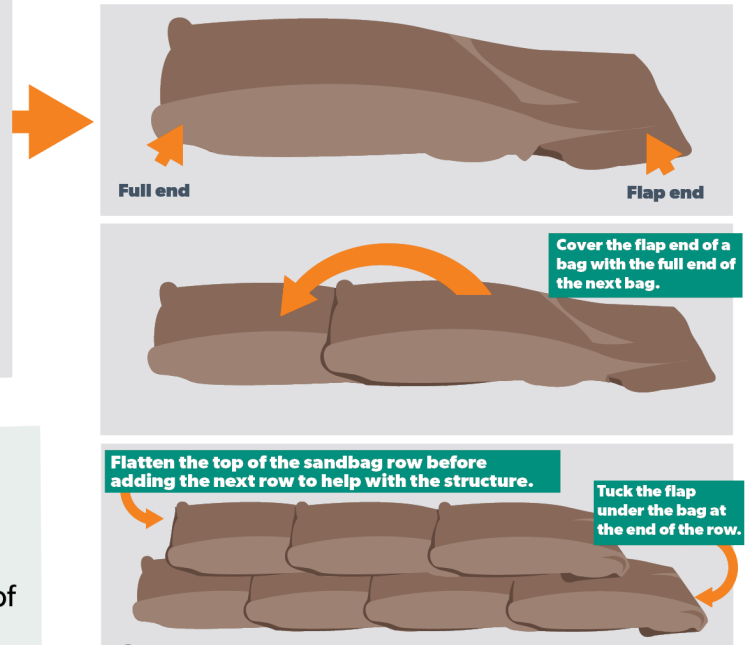
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

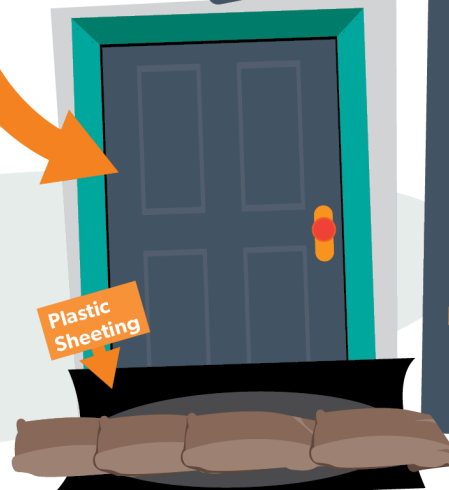


Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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.



Sandbags and sand

Preparing your home

Having sandbag supplies ready can assist you before a flooding emergency occurs.

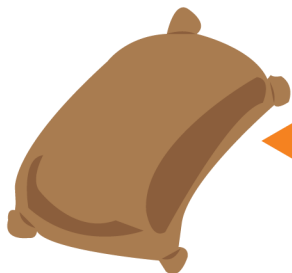


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- Sandbags
- Sand
- Plastic sheeting
- Gloves and safety goggles
- Shovel and hand scoop

Where can I purchase these supplies?

- Many sandbag supplies can be purchased from hardware stores or garden centres.
- VICSES do not routinely supply sandbags to households.
- During floods, sandbag distribution points may be established in flood-affected areas.



How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- Most homes can be protected by less than 25 sandbags.
- The number of sandbags will depend on your local flood risk and availability.
- Sandbags are filled 2/3 full which requires around 15-20kgs of sand per bag.

How do I store my sand and sandbags?

- Filled sandbags only have a short shelf life.
- It is recommended to store sandbags empty.
- Sandbags should be stored in a cool dry area away from UV light.
- Sand should be kept dry and can be stored in water resistant containers or under a tarp.
- Sand is heavy - ensure it is stored so it can be moved safely.



When should I sandbag my home?

- **You** are best placed to decide if there is a need to sandbag your home, based on local knowledge and past flood events.
- Monitor your local conditions. Stay up-to-date with weather forecasts and warnings by downloading the **BOM Weather** and **VicEmergency** apps, or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.
- If you think you are at risk, do not wait for an official warning to act.