

Port Fairy, 2020



Local Flood Guide

Port Fairy

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

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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.

Content reviewed: December 2025



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

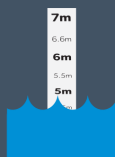


This material/publication was produced with funding provided by the Australian Government in partnership with the States and Territories under the National Partnership Agreement for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Local flood information



There have been seven significant flood events in Port Fairy between 2001 and 2022.



The largest recent flood event recorded was in 2020, with floodwater measuring 4.47 metres at the Toolong Gauge.



Flooding can happen quickly after heavy rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why does Port Fairy flood?

Port Fairy is at risk of **riverine flooding**, **flash flooding** and **storm surge flooding** due to its location on the Moyne River and the nearby estuary and ocean. There are four gauges along the Moyne River for Port Fairy: Gerrigerrup, Willatook, Toolong and Port Fairy.

Riverine flooding happens when the Moyne River rises and overflows its banks, and spills water onto land.

Low-lying coastal areas in Port Fairy may also 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.

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

- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.
- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool.



How do floods impact communities?

Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.



Buildings flooded



Road closures



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



Mobile and internet network outage

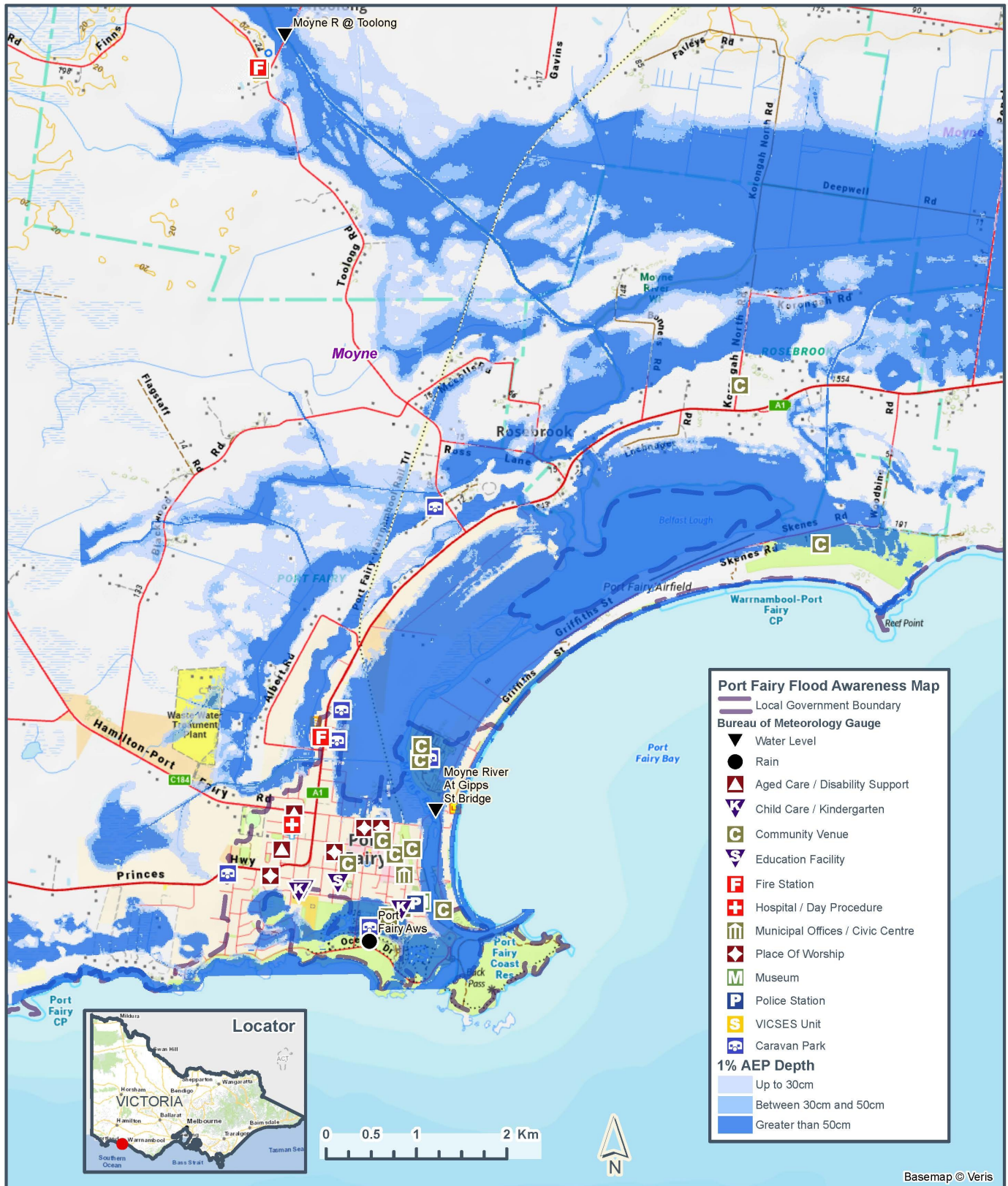


Sewage overflows inside building

Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

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

- This map shows the area likely to flood in a significant flood event
- 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



What might happen in a flood in your area?

Although no two floods are the same and the environment is constantly changing, the below table provides an idea of what to expect at different flood heights.

- **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:** If 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 and previous flood events^ |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Unknown | 1894 flood level According to local history, this was the highest flood ever in Port Fairy however the date was before gauges and the height was not officially recorded. This flood caused extensive stock losses in the area. |
| 5.7m | 1946 flood level Largest flood on record, causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure, washing away several bridges, including the Rosebrook Bridge on Princes Highway. |
| 5.1m | Flood height shown on page 4 . 191 properties in Port Fairy are flooded - 50 above floor level; 141 below floor level. |
| 4.47m | October 2020 Flood Level 47 buildings were impacted above and below floor at the Gardens Caravan Park. 16 buildings were impacted by flooding in Port Fairy. 12 buildings were impacted by flooding north of Port Fairy in Kirkstall, Killarney, Koroit, Crossley and Rosebrook. |
| 4.5m | August 1978 Flood Level |
| 4.4m | Flood height shown on page 4 . 43 properties may be flooded - 4 above floor level; 39 below floor level. Shallow flooding overtops Koroit-Port Fairy Road and the Penshurst-Port Fairy Road. Flooding impacts Korongah North Road, Ritchie Street and Skenes Road. |
| 4.35m | August 2010 Flood Level |
| 4.3m | The sewerage station west of the township may be impacted. Many roads and bridges may close, including Princes Highway (at Yambuk and Rosebrook), Toolong North Road, Port Fairy to Hamilton Road, Penshurst to Warrnambool Road, Woolsthorpe to Heywood Road and Griffiths Street |
| 4.1m | Flood Height shown on page 4 . Widespread rural farmland flooding, especially north of Princes Highway. Flooding may cut access to Manifold Street, Deepwell Road and Daltons Road. |
| 3.7m | August 2001 flood level The Port Fairy Airport located on Skenes Road is impacted |
| 3.45m | Minor inundation of the Moyne River, Murray Brook, Reedy Creek and Belfast Lough areas. Low lying farmland and minor road crossings may begin to be impacted by flooding. |

*The height measurement is at the Toolong Gauge on the Moyne River.

^This table includes information from previous flood events and flood studies, which are scientific models used to predict impacts

What areas and roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, the roads and areas listed below may flood and could be closed.

- The airfield and caravan parks in low-lying areas, in particular, Gardens Caravan Park.
- Princes Highway at Yambuk and Rosebrook.
- Isolation of areas along the sand dunes including the Life Saving Club and the ocean side of Griffiths Street.
- More serious flood events can flood properties above floor height, flood key infrastructure and facilities and isolate the town and surrounding areas, cutting off roads in and out of the area.

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

[VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 9](#) for more information.



Stay safe by never driving through floodwater. It can take just 15cm of flowing water to float a car, that's the height of an average pen.

Storm surge

Storm surge occurs when sea levels are elevated above the usual tidal limit due to the action of intense low-pressure systems over the open ocean. The low-pressure causes the sea level to rise as there is less air pressing down on the sea. Combined with gale force onshore winds, this can lead to flooding of low-lying coastal land.

Storm surge flooding in Port Fairy occurs at:

- Griffith Island walkway (the walkway that connects Griffiths Island, starting at Ocean Drive, adjacent to the Martins Point Playground).
- Ocean Drive (the road between Martins Point Playground and Pea Soup), flooding across Ocean Drive has pushed large rocks onto the road cutting access.
- Properties along Ocean Drive (the corner of Ocean Drive and Anna Catherine Drive).

In 2009, 2014 and 2025, there have been storm surge flood events in Port Fairy.

The June 2014 storm surge flood event impacted three properties along Ocean Drive. While there were no buildings recorded to be flooded above floor level, the peak flood level was close to flooding these buildings above floor level.

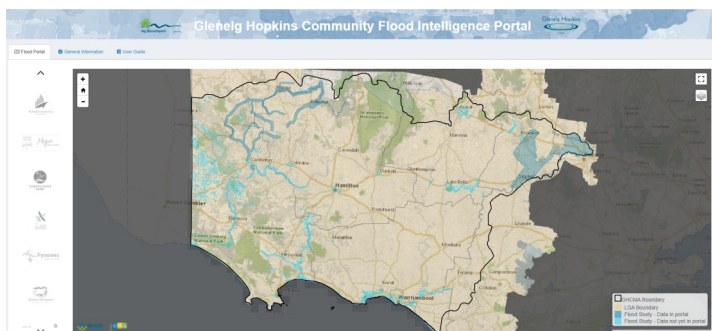


Moyne River Estuary, 2025



Moyne River Estuary, 2014

Download your free Property Flood Report



Go to my.floodreport.com.au/ghcma/

The [GHCMA Flood Portal](#), developed by the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, is a tool for residents and businesses to assess their flood risk

- Use the portal to zoom in on your property and see if it's likely to be affected in a large flood event
- Download a free property report for properties inside the mapped area

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls based on planning zones and overlays.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

ghcma.vic.gov.au | 03 5571 2526

Local Council

For relief support after a flood event and general land use planning.

Moyne Shire Council

moyne.vic.gov.au |
1300 656 564

VICSES

For emergency help in a flood or storm event.

VICSES Port Fairy

ses.vic.gov.au | 132 500



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 9](#) for more information.



Belfast Lough, 2020

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



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.

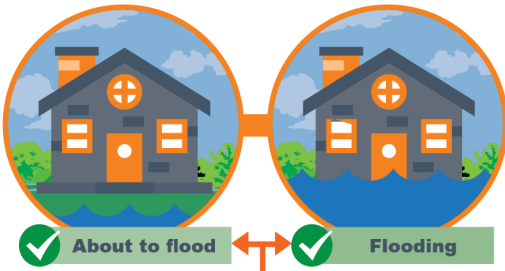


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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/glenelg_hopkins.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC Local 1602 AM, Coast 95.3 FM

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.

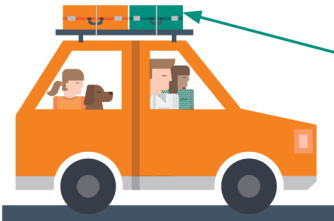
3



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

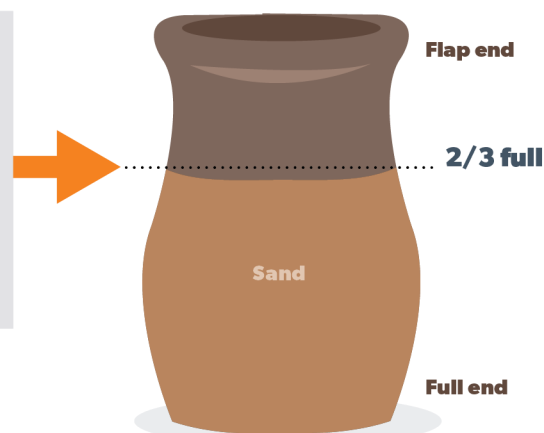


Sandbagging

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

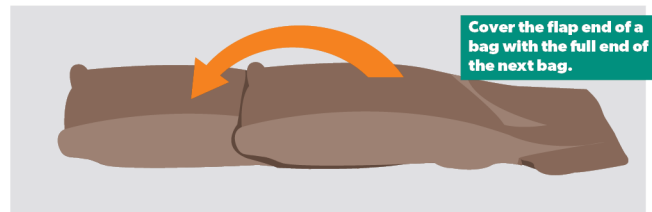
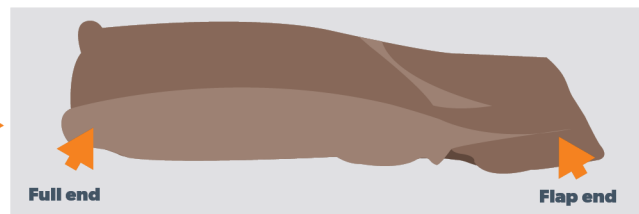
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

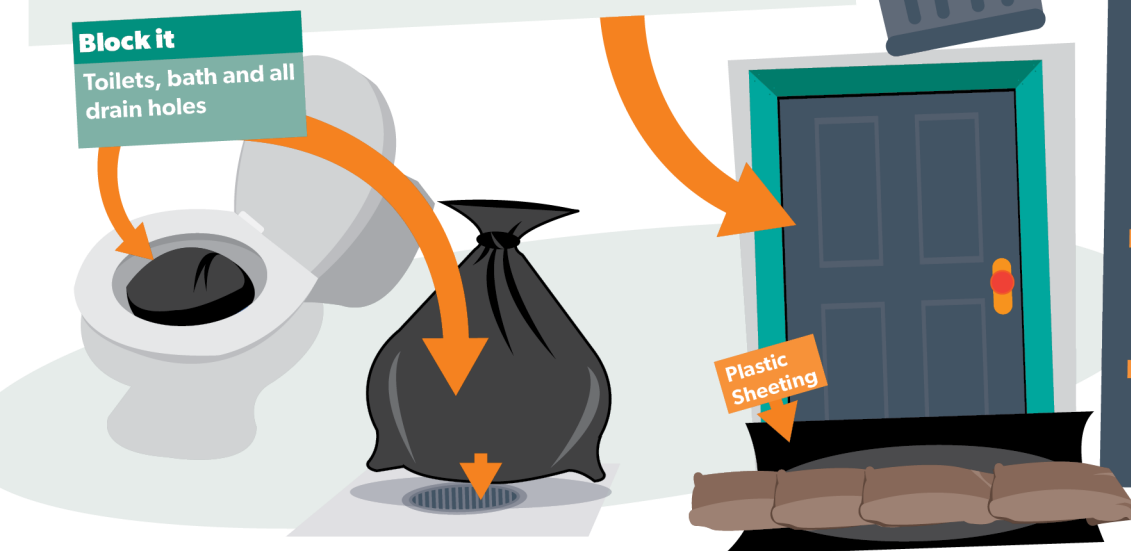


Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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.

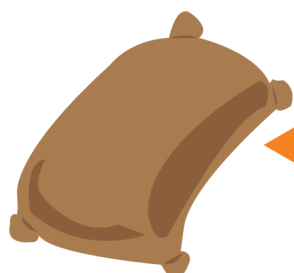


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

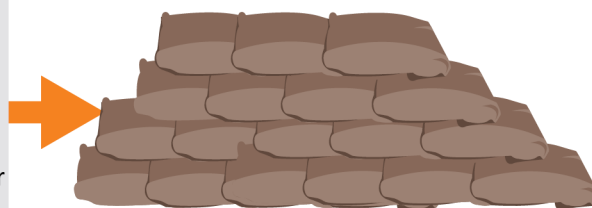


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.