

APEX Park, 2022



# Local Flood Guide

## Wangaratta

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:** September 2025



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

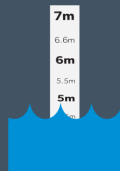


## Local flood information



### Did you know ?

There have been 10 significant flood events in Wangaratta between 1917 and 2024.



The largest recorded Riverine flood was in 1993 when Ovens River floods reached 12.98 m metres at the Wangaratta Gauge.



Riverine floods upstream catchments can start to affect the town in about 12-24 hours.

## Why does Wangaratta flood?

Wangaratta is at risk of both **Riverine flooding** and **Flash flooding**. Both flood types can happen separately or at the same time, depending on where and how much rain falls. Both are usually caused by very heavy rainfall.

### Riverine flooding

This happens when river levels in the Ovens River, King River, One Mile Creek and/or Three Mile Creek rise with rainfall and overflow their banks, spilling floodwater onto nearby land.

- Wangaratta has four main waterways, and parts of the town are built on the floodplain. These naturally low areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Flooding from the Ovens and King Rivers and the One Mile or Three Mile Creeks (part of the Fifteen Mile Creek system) can happen separately or all at once, making predictions of what might actually happen tricky.
- Different parts of town can be at risk, depending on where the rain falls and the floodwater comes from.
- Sometimes Ovens River floods can be made worse when warm tropical rain melts mountain snow in the Alpine National Park.

### Flash flooding

This type of flooding can happen so quickly that you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last a few hours, they can cause severe damage and be very dangerous. Stormwater drains may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.

- The Rowan Street railway underpass often floods this way, disrupting traffic.
- In Dec 2018 intense rainfall caused flash flooding, trapping drivers on the Hume Freeway.

## How can floods impact communities?

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



Buildings and sheds flooded



Floodwater closes roads and bridges



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



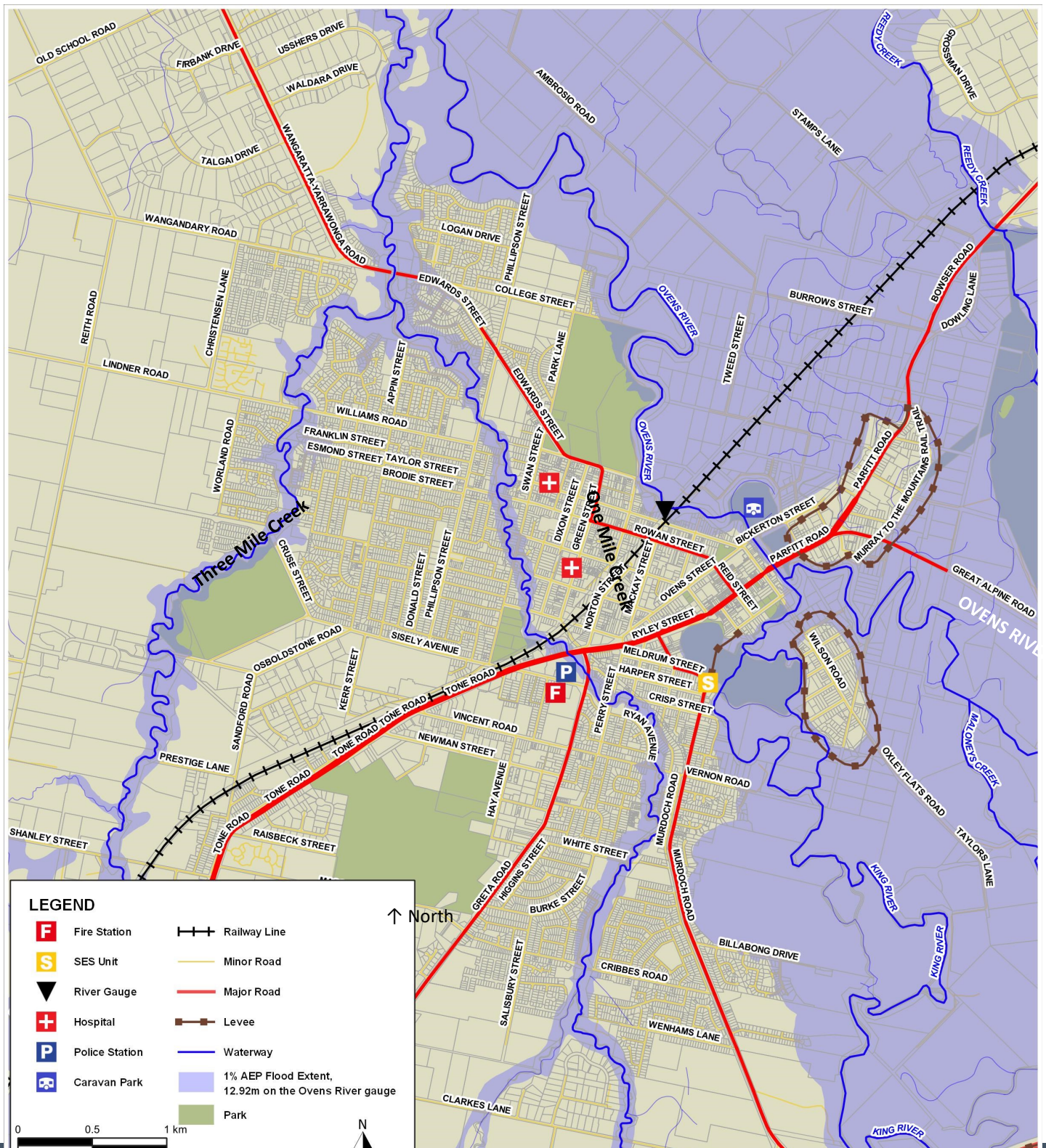
Mobile and internet network



Sewage overflows inside building

## Check your home, work or travel routes for floodwater.

- The blue shading on this map shows flood risk areas of Wangaratta that are likely to flood in a big 1%\* Riverine flood. If flooding might affect you, make sure you take action now to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 9](#) for more.
- The map shows a 1% size\* flood on Wangaratta's waterways. This flood would measure 12.97 metres (m) high at the Ovens River gauge in Wangaratta, 4.86 m on the King River at Docker Road and 8.54m high at the Fifteen Mile Creek at Greta South gauge.
- This flood height is called a 1%\* Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) which means there is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening in any year. Not just once every 100 years!





## What might happen in a One and/or Three Mile Creek flood in your area?

Although no two floods are ever the same and the environment is constantly changing, this table provides an idea of what might happen at different flood heights (based on previous impacts).

- **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.
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by SES using [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted flood height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you, your neighbours and your community.



### Fifteen Mile Creek levels at the Greta South\* flood gauge

\*This gauge is used for flood predications for the One and Three Mile Creeks in Wangaratta.

Height* m = metres	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
8.54 m	<b>1993 flood level.</b> 53 homes flooded along One Mile Creek. The approximate 1% flood level ( <a href="#">refer map p.4</a> )
8.10 m	Above floor flooding occurs at the lowest houses in Valdoris Avenue, Graham Avenue, Crisp Street, Bronmar Street and Swan Street.
6.08 m	<b>September 2010 flood level.</b>
6.00 m	<b>Major flood level</b> Roads and land along the One Mile and Three Mile Creeks are likely to start flooding. More extensive flooding into sheds and back yards of homes in Wangaratta and farmland north and south of the Hume Freeway between the One Mile and Fifteen Mile Creeks near Greta Road.
5.86 m	<b>December 2010 flood level.</b>
5.73 m	<b>1974 flood level.</b>
4.20 m	<b>Moderate flood level</b>
3.98 m	<b>October 2016 flood level.</b>
3.20 m	<b>Three Mile Creek:</b> shallow flooding north of the Hume Freeway over low lying farmland, Gravel Pit Road at the Old Hume Highway corner, and the South Wangaratta Industrial area (eg Tone Road near the GOTAFE paddocks, and the CFA/SES Training Ground). <b>One Mile Creek:</b> Rattray Avenue footbridge closed. Low-level flooding likely along roads and land in other areas including Swan and Bronmar Streets and Rattray Avenue.
2.80 m	<b>Minor flood level</b>

## What might happen in an Ovens River flood in your area?

Although no two floods are ever the same and the environment is constantly changing, the below table provides an idea of what might happen 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.
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by SES using [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted flood height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you, your neighbours and your community.



### Ovens River flood levels at the Wangaratta Gauge

This gauge is used for flood predications for Wangaratta.

Height* m =metres	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
Unknown	<b>1870 flood level.</b> No gauge at that time. Similar to the 1917 and 1993 floods. Historically known as Wangaratta's largest flood.
12.98 m	<b>October 1993 and estimated 1917 flood levels.</b> Extensive flooding likely across many areas of Wangaratta affecting houses, businesses, caravan parks, roads, bridges, drinking water and sewage systems, farms, farm equipment, fences and livestock.
12.97 m	<b>Current declared 1% flood level.</b> Height shown on map <a href="#">page 4</a> .
12.80 m	<b>September 2010 and estimated 1974 flood levels.</b> 2010 flood caused significant riverbank erosion with several areas advised to evacuate. In <b>1974 flood</b> , widespread flooding caused more than 260 houses to be flooded prompting the construction of the town levees and diversion channel. Likely key road closures include Old Hume Highway, now Parfitt Rd to the north of town.
12.78 m	<b>October 2016 flood level.</b>
12.77m	<b>October 2022 flood level.</b>
12.76m	<b>September 1998 flood level.</b> Over 300 mm of rainfall across the Ovens and King catchments. Extensive King Valley flooding. Yogi gets covered in Apex Park.
12.76m	<b>December 2010 flood level.</b> Wilson Rd levee area evacuated due to levee failing.
12.70m	<b>Major flood level</b> Painters Island Caravan park closes. Extensive road closures. Widespread flooding around the airport and Ovens River flats north of Wangaratta to Peechelba. Water to Yogi's nose in Apex Park.
12.48m	<b>March 2012 flood level.</b> Widespread heavy rain caused flooding from the Warby Ranges to north of Wangaratta through to Rutherglen.
12.40m	<b>Moderate flood level</b> Residents in Wilson and Parfitt Rd levee areas advised to prepare to evacuate (unless levees are damaged or fail before this). Great Alpine Rd is likely to be closed by flooding near Wangaratta, detour via Detour Rd in North Wangaratta. Extensive flooding through Apex Park, water to Yogi's mouth. Deep water floods Bickerton St and Mundgee Place carparks closed and access road to Painters Island Caravan Park flooded. Shallow flooding to Pinkerton Cres and backyards along Templeton St and Baker St.
11.90m	<b>Minor flood level</b> Apex Park and farmland along the Ovens and King floodplains north, south and east of Wangaratta begin flooding. Bike paths and walking tracks closed at 11.6m around Apex Park and the Northern Beaches and riverside carparks are closed before flooding: Sydney Beach, Bickerton St and Baker St. Water levels will vary and may reach Yogi's Chin in Apex Park.



## What might happen in a King River flood in your area?

Although no two floods are ever the same and the environment is constantly changing, the below table provides an idea of what is likely to happen 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.
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by SES using [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted flood height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you, your neighbours and your community.

**King Valley's Local Flood Guide** is being developed with it's own detailed flood information. Go to [ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/flood-guides](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/flood-guides):

Below are some key flood impacts at the Docker Road gauge that is close to Wangaratta.

King River flood levels at the Docker Road Bridge gauge	
This gauge is used to help calculate or work out flood predications for Wangaratta.	
Height* (m=metres)	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
4.86 m	1% flood level.
4.84 m	October 1993 flood level.
4.5 m	December 2010 flood level
4.44 m	September 1998 flood level..
4.3 m	September 2010 flood level.
4.10 m	Major flood level More widespread flooding of Agricultural land, sheds and stockyards.
3.95 m	Moderate flood level Low lying agricultural farmland starts to flood.  Water over road Docker-Carboor Road is closed between Wangaratta to Whitfield Road and the Oxley to Meadow Creek Road
3.7 m	Minor flood level No known impacts at this level.



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

## Your local services

### Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments.

- **North East Catchment Management Authority**

[necma.vic.gov.au](http://necma.vic.gov.au) | 1300 216 513

### Local Council

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

- **Rural City of Wangaratta**

[wangaratta.vic.gov.au](http://wangaratta.vic.gov.au) | 03 5722 0888

Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast. **Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.**



Parfitt Rd  
levee 2010



Hume Fwy 2018

Flash floods happen in just a few hours. In 2018, deep flash flooding trapped over 50 vehicles on the Hume Freeway north of Wangaratta.





# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

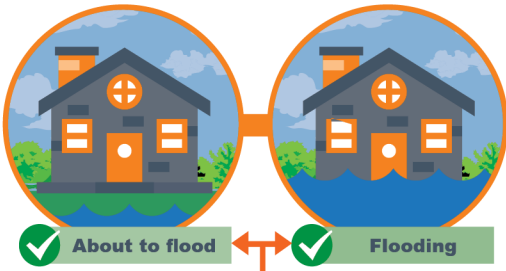


For more details and other tips, visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



# 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](https://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/north\\_east.shtml](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/north_east.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



Radio ABC 106.5 FM, 97.7 FM or 3NE 1566 AM, Edge102.1 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.

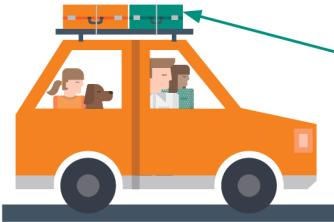
3



### Lift it

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

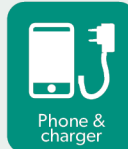
4



### 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:



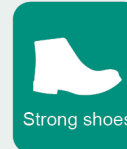
Phone & charger



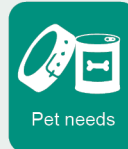
Prescriptions & medication



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](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)





# Sandbags and sand

## Preparing your home

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

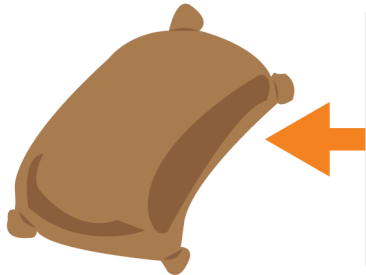


### *What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?*

- 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.

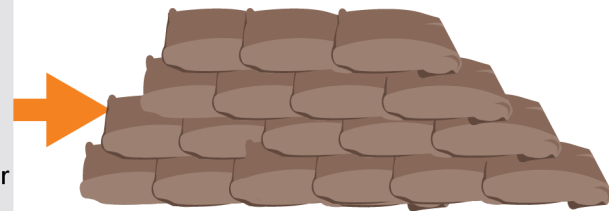


### *How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?*

- 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.



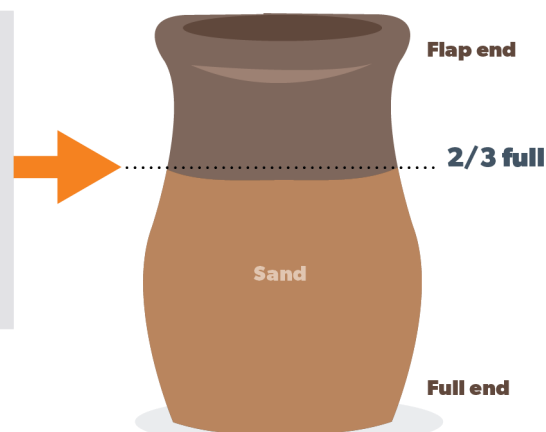


# Sandbagging

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

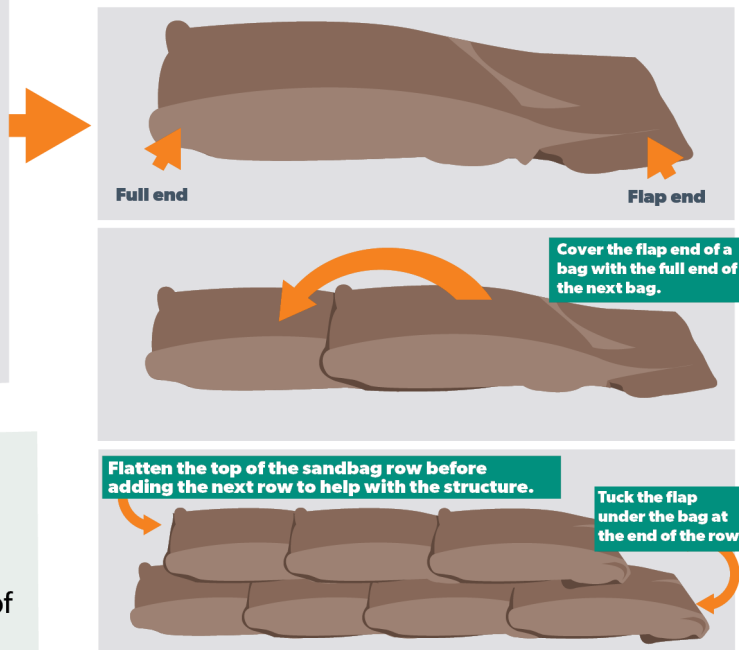
## How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

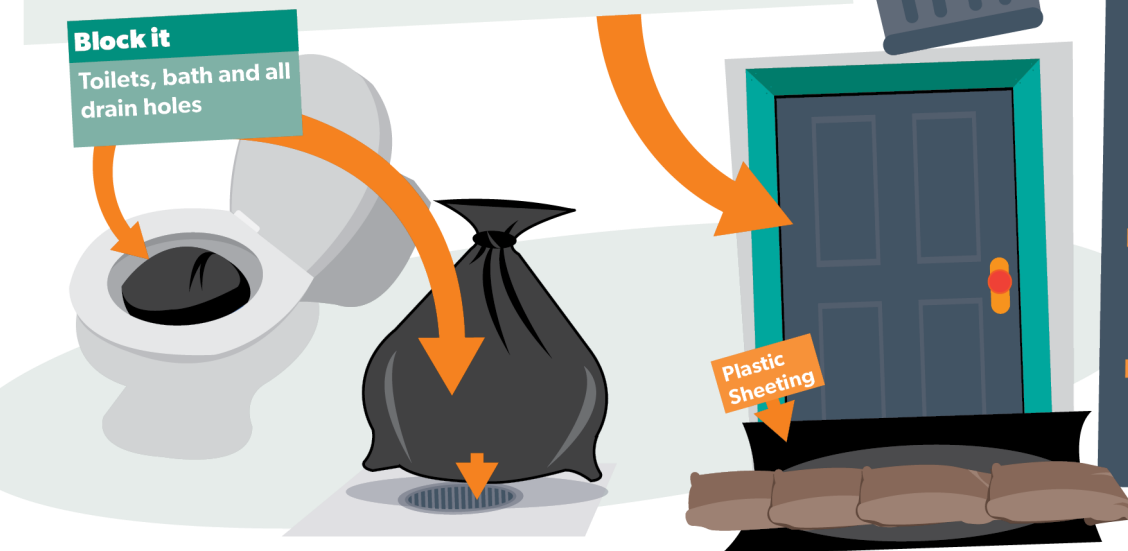


## Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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.