



# Local Flood Guide

*Stratford*

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



FLOOD STORM  
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening  
call triple zero 000

# Contents

■ <b>Local flood information</b>	<b><u>Page 3</u></b>
Why does Stratford flood?	<u>Page 3</u>
How do floods impact communities?	<u>Page 3</u>
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater	<u>Page 4</u>
What might happen in a flood in your area?	<u>Page 5</u>
What roads are likely to flood?	<u>Page 6</u>
Previous flood impacts	<u>Page 7</u>
View flood information for your property	<u>Page 8</u>
Your local services	<u>Page 8</u>
■ <b>Plan and prepare for floods</b>	<b><u>Page 9</u></b>
■ <b>What to do in a flood emergency</b>	<b><u>Page 10</u></b>
■ <b>Sandbag Guide</b>	<b><u>Page 11</u></b>



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:** Avon River, Stratford 2023, Victoria State Emergency Service.

**Content reviewed:** November 2025



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

## Local flood information

Towns surrounding Stratford that can also be affected by flooding:

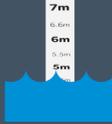
■ Airly

■ Clydebank

■ Perry Bridge



Stratford experience flood events annually, and sometimes up to four times in one year.



The largest flood on record was in 1990 when the floodwater reached 9.01 metres at Stratford.



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

## Why does Stratford flood?

Stratford is 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 Avon River, Blackall Creek or Nuntin Creek rises and overflows their banks, and spills water onto land.

- Stratford and the surrounding towns are built around the Avon River and 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 Mount Moornapa can end up flowing into the Avon potentially causing, or adding to 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 Avon River, Blackall Creek or Nuntin Creek may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.
- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool. More buildings and less green spaces can impact this.

## 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

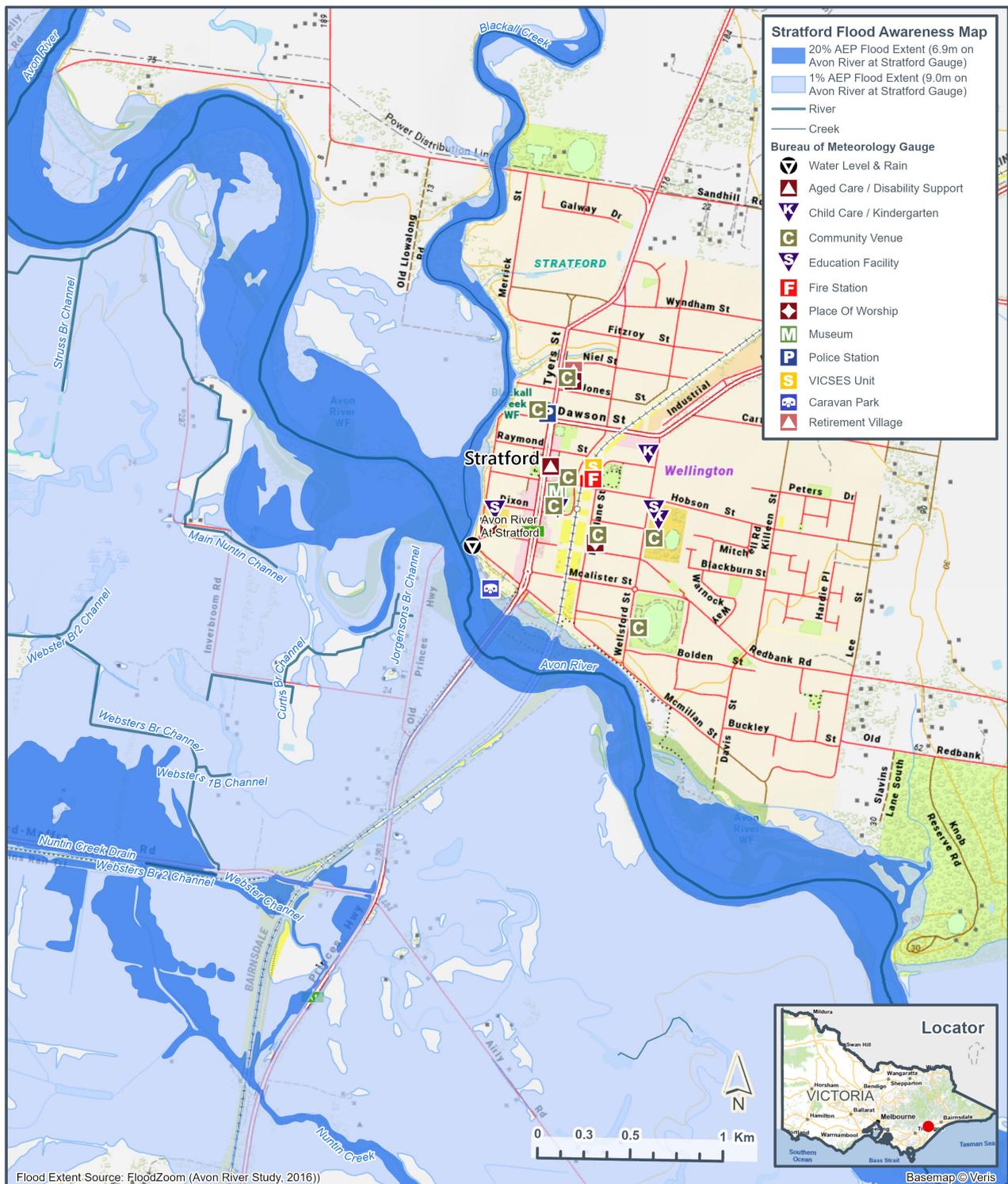
This map shows the area likely to be impacted when the [Avon River at Stratford](#) gauge measures **9.0 meters**. There is 1% (or greater) chance of this type of flooding happening in any given year.

The map also shows the area likely to be impacted when the same gauge measures 6.9 metres. There is a 20% (or greater) chance of this type of flooding happening in any given year.

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [Page 9](#) for more information.



View an interactive version of this map using West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's [Community Flood Portal](#), see [page 8](#) for more information.



## 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:** 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 or your community.

Floodwater height* (metres)	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
9.01m	April 1990 flood event.
9.0m	<b>1% AEP flood height see <a href="#">page 4</a>.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Properties at Airly Road, Freemans Lane, McMillans Street and Newton Drive experience flooding.</li> </ul>
8.86m	June 2007 flood event.
8.32m	June 2012 flood event.
7.7m	<b>10% AEP flood height</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gooch Road between Heath Road and Redbank Road experiences flooding.</li> <li>■ Low-lying areas of Old Princes Highway, Inverbroom Road, Settlement Road North experience flooding.</li> <li>■ Floodwater extends across rural properties and the floodplains north and south of Stratford township.</li> </ul>
7.26m	October 2023 flood event.
<b>6.9m</b>	<b>20% AEP flood height, <a href="#">see page 4</a>.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The low-lying area of Stratford-Maffra Road between the Princes Highway and Harkness Street experiences flooding, also affecting the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail.</li> <li>■ Boisdale-Stratford Road near Maffra-Briagolong Road, Maffra experiences flooding.</li> <li>■ Llowalong Road, Stratford between Old Llowalong Road and Merrick Street, and at Llowalong Estate Road experience flooding.</li> <li>■ Brewers Hill Road and Littles Road, Maffra experiences flooding.</li> <li>■ Low-lying areas of Redbank Road and Airly Road south of Stratford experience flooding.</li> <li>■ Low-lying areas of Marlay Point Road, Frawley Road, Harris Road, Boultons Road, and Ronalds Road near Clydebank experience flooding.</li> <li>■ The floodplain south of Stratford surrounding Nuntin Creek experiences flooding.</li> </ul>
<b>6.5m</b>	<b>Major flood level</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Princes Highway west of Stratford between the Stratford Cemetery and Airly Road experiences flooding.</li> <li>■ Maffra-Stratford Road between Princess Highway and Beet Road experiences flooding.</li> </ul>

\*The height measurement is at the [Avon River at Stratford Gauge](#)

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

Floodwater height* (metres)	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
<b>6.0m</b>	<b>Moderate flood level</b>
5.6m	December 2023 flood event.
4.8m	January 2024 flood event.
<b>4.5m</b>	<b>Minor flood level</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bengworden Road, Clydebank between Balgonie Lane and Silbys Road experiences flooding.</li> <li>■ Stewarts Lane (Weir's Crossing), north of Stratford is experiences flooding.</li> <li>■ Low lying areas of Stratford on The River Tourist Park and Apex Park experience flooding.</li> </ul>

\*The height measurement is at the [Avon River at Stratford Gauge](#)

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

## What roads are likely to flood?

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

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 11](#) for more information.



**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.



Source: Avon River Bank, Stratford. *The Middle of Everywhere* Facebook. 13 November 2021

## Previous flood impacts

While no two floods are the same, understanding the impacts of past floods can help you anticipate impacts of future flood events.

### June 2007 Flood Event



8.86  
Metres



19  
Properties  
Damaged



2,000ha  
Farmland  
Damaged



40  
Properties  
Evacuated



Photo: Railway bridge over the Avon River Stratford at usual river height (left) and on 28 June 2007 (right). *Hobbies Plus, Stratford.*

### April 1990 Flood Event



9.01  
Metres



500km  
Fencing  
Damaged



51  
Properties  
Damaged



2290  
Livestock  
Destroyed

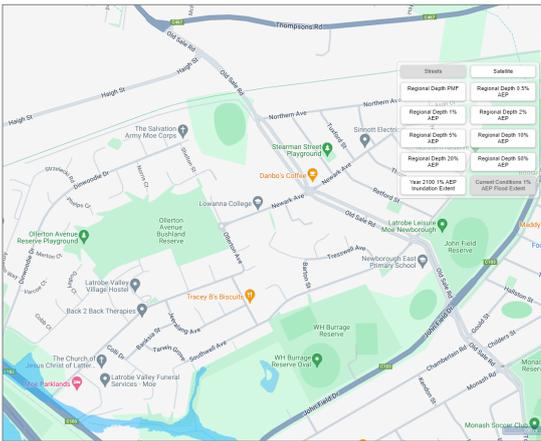


Photo: Railway bridge over the Avon River, from the Princes Highway Bridge, 1990. *Graeme Morton 'Clif Arnold collection', Facebook, 2022.*



On 20th and 21st of April 1990 areas of Gippsland recorded rainfall up to 350mm leading to major flooding of the Avon river.

## View flood information for your property



The [Community Flood Portal](#), developed by the West Gippsland 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.

Go to [flood.wgcma.vic.gov.au](https://flood.wgcma.vic.gov.au).



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 10](#) for more information.

## Your local services

### Catchment Management Authority

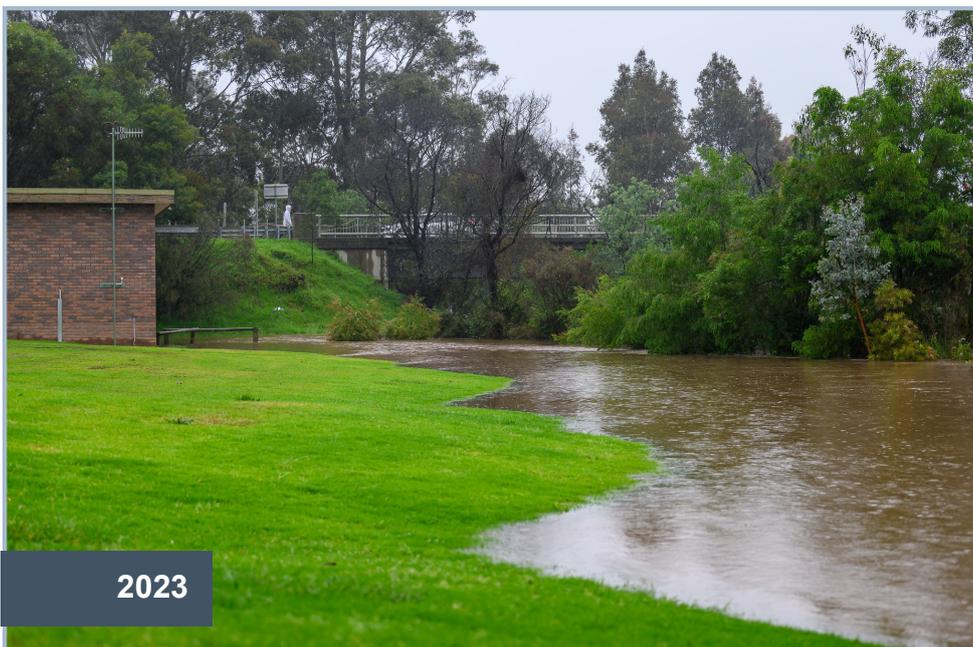
For flood advice and information on flood levels or depths when developing your property.

- **West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**  
[wgcm.vic.gov.au](https://wgcm.vic.gov.au) | 03 5175 7800

### Local Council

For relief and recovery support after a flood event.

- **Wellington Shire Council**  
[wellington.vic.gov.au](https://wellington.vic.gov.au) | 1300 366 244



Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast.

**Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.**

Source: Stratford River Tourist Park. *Gippsland Times*. December 2023.

# 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



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/west\\_gippsland.shtml](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/west_gippsland.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 100.7FM & 828AM TRFM 99.5FM

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)

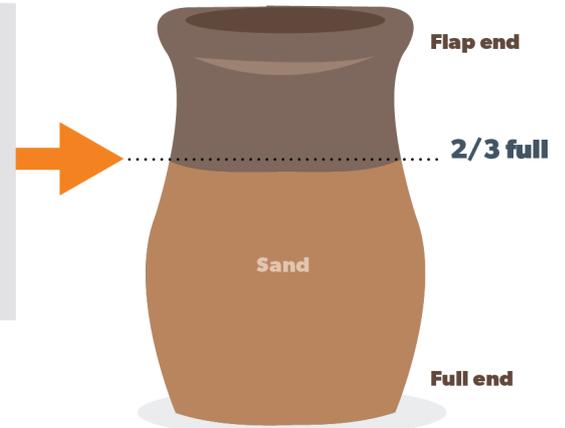


# Sandbagging

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

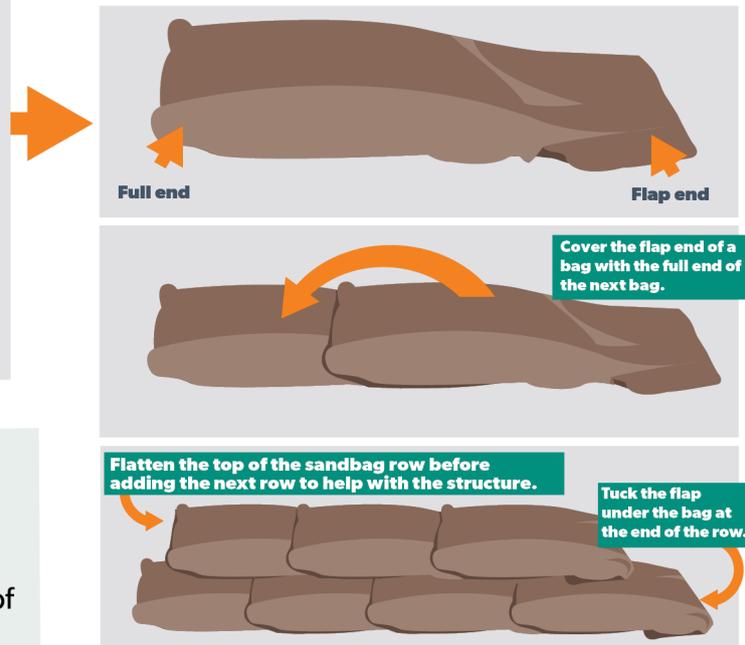
## How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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



Plastic Sheetting



## 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.

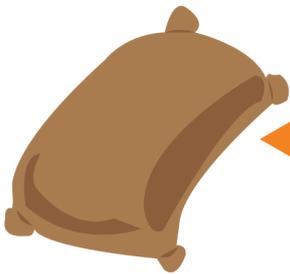


### What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

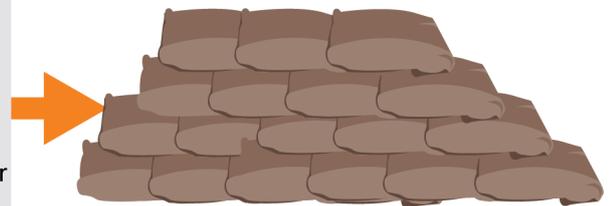


### How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.