

# How to Fill and Stack Sandbags

## **Step 1: Gather Your Materials**

- **Sandbags:** Durable, woven polypropylene bags.
- **Filling Material:** Sand is best, but soil or gravel can be used.
- **Shovel:** For filling the bags.



## **Step 2: Prepare the Area**

- **Flat Surface:** Ensure the area where you will be stacking sandbags is flat and clean.
- **Protective Gear:** Wear gloves and safety goggles for protection.

## **Step 3: Filling Sandbags**

1. **Open the Bag:** Stand the bag upright and open it fully.
2. **Filling:** Fill the bag halfway (about 1/3 to 1/2 full) with sand or soil. Do not overfill; this allows the bag to mold into place and provides better coverage.
3. **Tie the Bag:** Tie the bag securely at the top with a zip tie or string, leaving some slack to make the bag pliable.

## **Step 4: Stacking Sandbags**

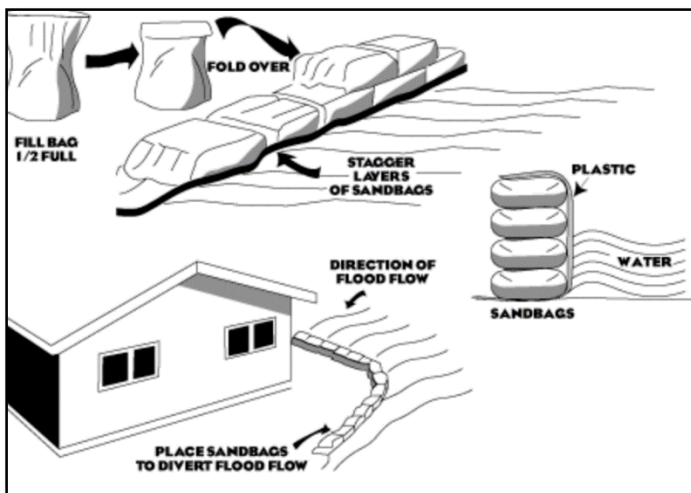
1. **Base Layer:** Lay the first row of sandbags parallel to the expected flow of water. Place bags tightly together and stagger the joints like brick work.
2. **Second Layer:** Stack the next layer, offsetting the bags to cover the joints of the row below. Tamp down each layer to remove air gaps.
3. **Additional Layers:** Continue stacking additional layers in the same manner until the desired height is reached. For increased stability, create a pyramid shape with a wider base tapering to a narrower top.

## **Tips for Effective Use**

- **Barrier:** Create a continuous barrier by overlapping the ends of the rows.
- **Waterproofing:** Use plastic sheeting over the sandbag barrier to improve water resistance.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect and replace any damaged sandbags.

## **Safety Precautions**

- **Lifting Technique:** Use proper lifting techniques to avoid injury—bend your knees, keep your back straight, and lift with your legs.
- **Teamwork:** Work in teams to increase efficiency and reduce strain.



For a brief video on how to fill and stack sandbags:



**Please limit sandbags to no more than 30 per load so there is availability for all community needs.**