

Sandbag Information

How do I lay Sandbags?

1. Place down a layer of plastic sheeting to act as the water proofing membrane.
2. Lay sandbags like brickwork on top of the plastic sheeting.
3. Start at one end and work to the other end.
4. Ensure the unfilled top part of the bag is covered by the next bag.
5. Tuck flap under the bag at the end of the row.

Do sandbags really stop water?

The use of sandbags is a simple, but effective way to prevent or reduce flood water damage. Properly filled and placed sandbags can act as a barrier to divert moving water around, instead of through, buildings. Sandbag construction does not guarantee a water-tight seal, but is satisfactory for use in most situations.

How much sand does a sandbag hold?

A cubic yard will fill about 100 30-pound sandbags or about 75 40-pound bags, assuming the sand weighs 110 pounds per cubic foot. Sand weighs 100 to 130 pounds per cubic foot, depending on moisture content and packing. A cubic yard is 27 cubic feet. Oct 23, 2015

How To Fill A Sandbag:

1. Fill sandbags 1/2 to 2/3 full, tie at top so bag will lay flat when put in place. A properly filled sand bag should weigh between 35-40 lbs.
2. Overfilled bags and bags tied too low leave gaps in sandbag levee allowing water to seep through. An overfilled sandbag can weigh 70 - 75 lbs.

How long do sandbags last for?

How long will a sandbag last? Both Burlap and Polypropylene sandbags will last up to 8 months to a year. But there are no guarantees, especially if they are sitting in the sun.

How many yards are in a 50 pound bag of sand?

(A cubic yard is 27 cubic feet)

A 50 pound bag of sand is about 3 cubic feet...so it looks like 7-8 bags should work for 2 inch depth.

How many square feet does a 50 pound bag of sand cover?

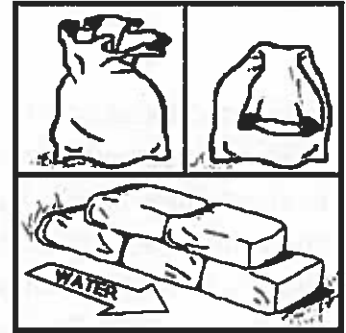
Guidelines. One cubic yard covers approximately 100 square feet to a depth of 3". One 2 cubic foot bag (soils and mulches) covers approximately 8 square feet to a depth of 3". One 75 pound bag (gravel, sand) covers approximately 4 square feet to a depth of 3".

Sandbag Filling and Placing Techniques

Sandbags, when properly filled and placed, will redirect storm and debris flows away from buildings and property.

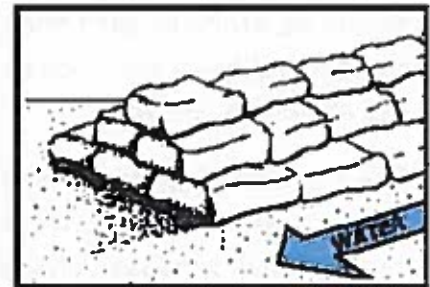
FILLING

1. Only fill sandbags one-half full. Overfilled bags will not stack properly, providing less than optimal protection.
2. Sand is suggested if readily available. If sand is not available, local soil may be used.



PLACING

1. Fold top of sandbag down and rest bag on its folded top.
2. It is important to place bags with the folded top toward the upstream or uphill direction to prevent bags from opening when water runs by them.
3. Care should be taken to stack sandbags in accordance with the illustrations. Place each sandbag as shown, completing each layer prior to starting the next layer.
4. Limit placement to two layers unless sandbags are pyramided.



Pyramid sandbag stacking.

LIMITATIONS

1. Sandbags will not seal out all water. They will help direct flow and debris.
2. Sandbags deteriorate when exposed for several months to continued wetting and drying.
3. Sandbags are basically for low-flow protection (up to two feet). Protection from higher flows requires a more permanent type of structure.

CAUTION

Do not use straw or hay bales in lieu of sandbags. They do not perform as well as sandbags and may be washed away.

FOR CURRENT SANDBAG STATION LOCATIONS

Contact Public Works Dispatch at 503-588-6063



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Sandbagging Safety

Filling sandbags is physically strenuous work, and care should be taken to avoid overexertion. Even people used to heavy exercise should pace themselves carefully and take measures to protect their back during sandbagging activities.

Filling sandbags is a two-person operation. Both people should be wearing gloves to protect their hands. Have one member of the team place the empty bag between or slightly in front of widespread feet, with arms extended. The person holding the sack should be standing with knees slightly flexed, and head and face as far away from the shovel as possible.

The team member with the shovel should carefully place soil into the throat of the bag. Only fill sandbags one-half full. Haste in this operation can result in undue spillage and added work.

Team members may wish to trade positions at intervals to avoid overexertion. Setting a reasonable pace, and taking regular breaks will help prevent overexertion or injury. People with health concerns or who are not used to strenuous exercise should consult their doctor before engaging in sandbagging activities.



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