

Sandbag Use & Disposal Handout



How to Effectively Use Sandbags

Making a durable sandbag wall using the wrap & stack method:

1. Fill each sandbag $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ full.
2. Tuck top of bag under. Tying is unnecessary because the bag will self-seal from its own weight.
3. Use a liner (preferably plastic) on the ground where you are creating the wall.
4. Stack bags in a staggered formation. This means that each layer of sandbags is offset from the layer below, decreasing by one sandbag per layer. For example, if the bottom row has 5 bags, the next will have 4, and so on.
5. Once the wall is complete, pull the plastic wrap up to cover the wall.

Please see the chart below to gauge how many bags you will need to obtain your desired wall height:

Bags	Height
3	1 Foot
6	2 Feet
9	3 Feet
12	4 Feet

Please note: these calculations only represent height & width. For length you must multiply these numbers so your wall accommodates your desired surface area

When you are determining where to place sandbags, you must keep in mind local environmental regulations and floodplain requirements. Even in an emergency event, permitting processes must be followed.

Requirements for Used Sandbag Disposal

Sand or sandbags that have come into contact with only precipitation, but not floodwater, are normally considered to be not contaminated and can be reused without restriction. Potential reuses include flower beds, snow and ice control, or as base for paving blocks.

Sand or sandbags that have been in contact with flood water should not be reused in ways that would involve direct human contact, such as sand boxes, gardens or playgrounds.

TLP: WHITE

Disclosure is not limited.

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Waste disposal after a flood needs to be communicated and addressed to ensure proper handling. By blocking the water flow, both the bag and the sand can become contaminated with sewage, pathogens, and chemicals from the floodwater.

DO NOT dump sandbags in creeks, rivers, canals, ditches, roadway gutters, or storm drain inlets.

Due to the degradation of the sandbag material in the sun, it is imperative that sandbags are not sitting out for an extended period of time. If there is not an active flood threat, the sandbags need to be removed and properly disposed of. In addition, they cannot block floodways and floodplains since this could lead to further flooding complications.

Check with your local waste management agencies for possible disposal sites.

Additional Sandbag Resources

If your community is in need of support for your sandbagging efforts, please contact your liaison and go through the formal request process in WebEOC.

[Sandbagging Instructions](#)

[Guidelines for Managing Used Sandbags](#)

[Army Corp Sandbagging Techniques](#)

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