Sandbags Safety Tips



Using Ready-to-Fill Sandbags to Protect Your Home.

Sandbags placed in appropriate locations around your home or business can reduce the impact of flooding. Sandbags will not stop the water completely but can reduce the amount of water entering.

Where do I need to put the sandbags?

For most buildings to reduce the impact of flooding, sandbags should be placed over floor wastes and drains (e.g. shower and bath) to prevent backflow of grey water. Sandbags should also be used in front of doorways/garage doors and brickwork vents.

Most standard homes and buildings built on a concrete slab can be protected with less than 25 sandbags. It is not always necessary to place a sandbag wall around your building to provide protection.

This may only be necessary if it is on stumps or constructed of materials such as timber or fibro sheeting. Before building a sandbag wall, consideration should be given to how you would remove flood water that could be trapped between the sandbag wall and your building (e.g. pump, siphon, or bailing bucket).

Where can I get ready-to-fill sandbags?

Sandbags can be purchased from some local hardware stores or landscaping suppliers. During times of high rain, ready-to-fill sandbags are available at your local County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACoFD) fire station. Sand is available at select LACoFD fire stations.

LA County residents may visit **lacounty.pw/sandbags** for locations that have ready-to-fill sandbags and/or sand.



How do I fill the sandbag?

- It is preferable that you only use sand to fill the bags — soil is not usually recommended.
- **Sandbags only need to be filled 2/3 full.**
- Do not overfill as they will be too heavy to carry. A filled sandbag can weigh 15-20 lbs.
- **Do not tie the top of the sandbag. The top of the sandbag may be tied for transport purposes only.**

How do I lay sandbags?

- Place down a layer of plastic sheeting to act as the water proofing membrane.
- **Lay sandbags like brickwork on top of the plastic sheeting.**
- Start at one end and work to the other end.
- **Ensure the unfilled top part of the sandbag is covered by the next sandbag.**
- Tuck the flap under the sandbag at the end of the row.
- **Stagger rows so that the joints do not line up.**

Tips for Laying Sandbags

- Flattening down the sandbag row before adding the next row will help you to build a better structure.
- **Sandbags will not seal out water. Sandbags are for low-flow protection (up to two feet) from larger flows that require a more permanent type of structure.**

Discover more safety tips at:

fire.lacounty.gov

@LACountyFD
@LACoFD
@LACoFD
@LACoFD