

Sandbag Filling and Placing Techniques

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

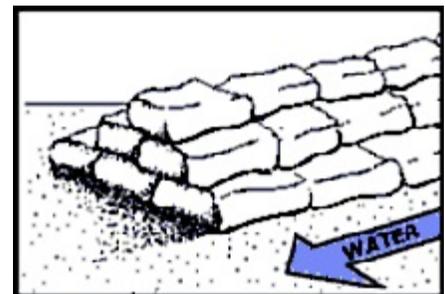
FILLING

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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