

Sandbags



During hurricane season and times of flooding, the City of Gulfport provides sandbags **free** to the public. In the event of an imminent hurricane, tropical storm, or during periods of heavy rain, you may request sandbags from the Department of Public Works. The limit on sandbags is 10 per household or 20 per commercial location. You can call 868-5742, 868-5765, or 868-5805 (PW Dispatch) to place a Service Request for sandbags. Once you have placed your request, you can pick up your sandbags at the Department of Public Works. Refer to our home page for directions.

If you need sandbags for flooding emergencies, be aware that they will not last long (less than a year normally). If your emergency plans call for using sandbags, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- If you keep your own sandbags in stock, Keep them dry and in a convenient place, out of sunlight.
- Ensure that when calculating how many sandbags you will need, you consider air bricks (weep holes), doors leading off garages that may flood inside, cat flaps, low level letterboxes etc as well as obvious doors.
- Keep sandbags dry and out of sunlight during storage. This will help prevent the polythene from breaking down under ultraviolet light making the bags difficult to move when needed.
- If you fill your own sandbags, ensure that they are not overfilled; they become heavy quickly. Use appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves etc. Filling sandbags is normally a two-person job unless you have prepared a frame to support the bags while filling them.
- Be aware that sandbags do seep water even when well stacked and trodden into place. Also consider whether water can get around your defenses (around doorframes or under doorsteps). There are sealants available from builders, merchants, and hardware stores that can be fitted at a convenient time well in advance of a storm or weather event. Always read the instructions on such products.

Remember:

- Sandbags, particularly after use, will rot or break down and become unusable over time.
- They may become contaminated and should be treated as such after use.
- They are much heavier when wet and should be handled with care.
- Builders' merchants may not be open or may have insufficient stocks when you need them.
- **The Department of Public Works provides this service on a first come basis and does not guarantee sandbags will be available if demand exceeds supply.**

How to place sandbags: Lift the sandbag by the neck and place horizontally with the neck twisted and tucked underneath. Make sure it is stamped down and well bedded. Layer the sandbags in brick formation, ensuring that joints are staggered.

Filling, Stacking and Placing Sandbags

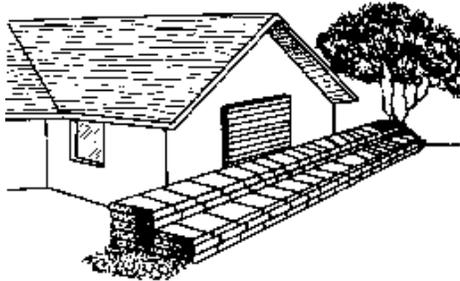
Emergency Storm Preparation

Public Works Department

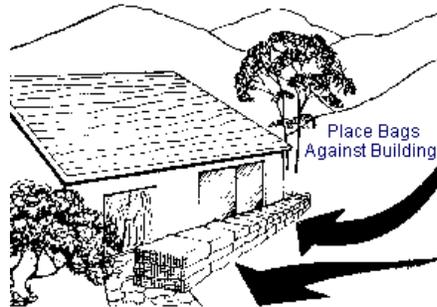
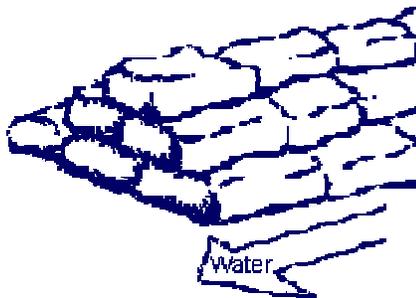
STACKING SANDBAGS:



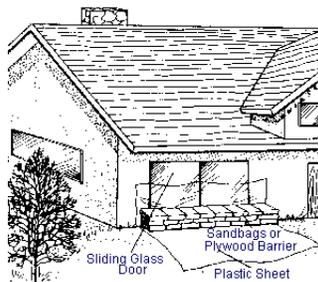
Care should be taken to stack the sandbags in accordance with the illustration (left). Place each sandbag as shown, completing each layer before starting the next layer.



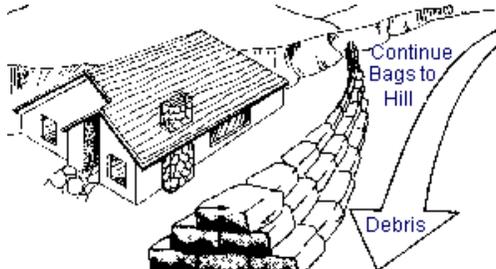
Limit placement to two layers unless a building is used as a backing (left) or sandbags are pyramided as shown below.



PLACING SANDBAGS TO DIVERT WATER AND DEBRIS



Sealing a Sliding Glass Door



Directing Debris Away From Buildings