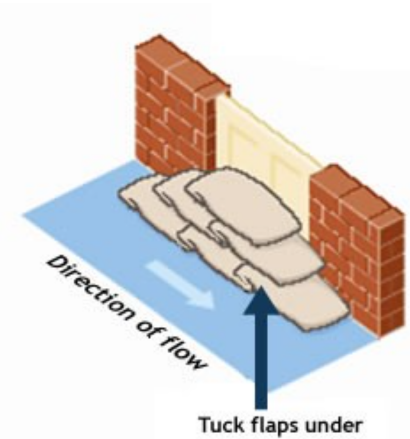
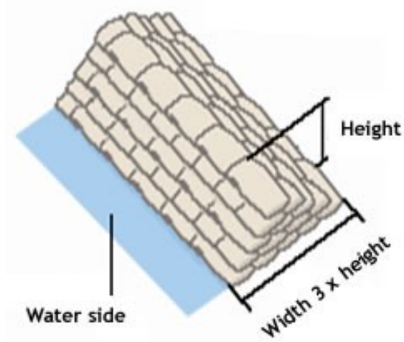


# How to use sandbags



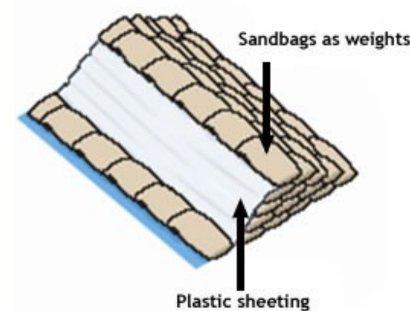
## How to fill and position sandbags

Unless you have access to a sandbag filling machine, this is a two person job: one to hold the bag open and one to fill. Sand is abrasive – both people should wear protective gloves. Do not fill bags more than half full. It is not necessary to tie the end of the bag. Remove any debris from the area where the bags are to be placed. Place the half filled bags lengthways and parallel to the direction of the water flow. Tuck the opened end under the filled half of the bag and position it pointing into the water flow. Place bags in layers like a brick wall, make sure that in the next layer each bag overlaps the one below by half. Stamp bags firmly into place to eliminate gaps and create a tight seal.



## Pyramid Placement Method

If you need to create sandbag protection that is more than three layers high you will need to build in a pyramid style. For the structure to be stable, you should build the 'sandbag wall' three times as wide as you need it to be high. It will also be more effective if you alternate the layers lengthways and crosswise. Stamp each bag in place and tuck the loose end firmly under the filled portion of the bag.



## Additional Waterproofing

Lay plastic sheeting across the side of the 'sandbag wall' that will face the floodwater. Weigh down with additional sandbags.

### Remember!

Sandbags are popular but they have disadvantages:

- During an emergency, sufficient quantities may be difficult to obtain.
- They are time-consuming and require two people to fill.
- They can be difficult to handle, particularly for the elderly or infirm.
- When they come into contact with floodwater they tend to retain contaminants such as sewage.
- Sacking material is biodegradable, and will disintegrate if left in place for long periods of time.
- Flood boards can avoid some of these drawbacks.