

# FLASH

cards



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CARDS



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FEDERAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOMES

# Sandbags

Sandbags can redirect storm water and debris flows away from homes and other structures if they are properly filled, placed and maintained.

## Filling:

- Fill sandbags one-half full.
- Use sand if readily available, otherwise, use local soil.
- Fold top of sandbag down and rest bag on its folded top.

## Placing:

- Take care in stacking sandbags.
- Limit placement to three layers unless a building is used as a backing or sandbags are placed in a pyramid.
- Tamp each sandbag into place, completing each layer prior to starting the next layer.
- Clear a path between buildings for debris flow.
- Lay a plastic sheet in between the building and the bags to control the flow and prevent water from seeping through openings like sliding glass doors.

## Limitations:

- Sandbags will not seal out water.
- Sandbags deteriorate when exposed to continued wetting and drying for several months. If bags are placed too early, they may not be effective when needed.
- Sandbags are for small water flow protection – up to two feet. Protection from larger flow requires a more permanent flood prevention system.
- Wet sandbags are very heavy and caution should be used to avoid injury.

NOTE: Consult your local environmental protection department before disposing of used sandbags. Sandbags exposed to contaminated floodwaters may pose an environmental hazard and require special handling.

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