

CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH SANDBAG PROGRAM

The City of Imperial Beach provides sandbags to residents to slow water intrusion. Sandbag availability can vary and may be limited immediately prior to or during storm events.

DO I NEED SANDBAGS?

If your property is in an area historically subject to periods of standing water or storm surge intrusion, it may need sandbags. Sandbags are not intended to provide long term flood prevention; however, they may be used to successfully help protect your home for a time.

WHERE DO I GET FREE SANDBAGS?

Sandbags and sand are provided behind the City Hall, 825 Imperial Beach Blvd. Simply present your proof of city residency (Residents requiring assistance please call ahead as staff availability will vary based on call volume)

Imperial Beach Fire-Rescue Department

865 Imperial Beach Boulevard

Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Office telephone 619-423-8223 (This is a non-emergency telephone which is answered only during regular business hours)

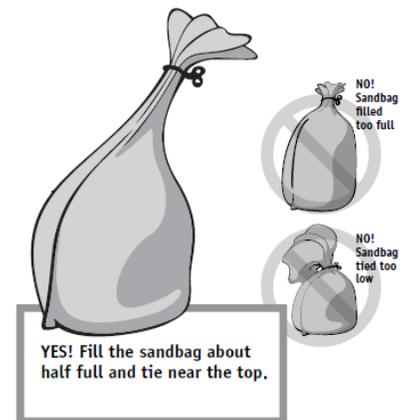
SANDBAG FILLING

Sandbags work best when properly filled. Filling sandbags too full will not let them fill in gaps along the ground or each other allowing water to pass through. Under filled sandbags will not provide enough surface area to be effective. For best results fill sandbags approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ full and tie them at the top.

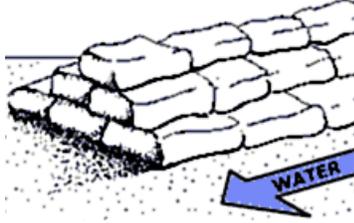
SANDBAG PLACEMENT

There are two methods for placing sandbags: the single stack method and pyramid method.

SINGLE STACK METHOD The single stack method uses a single row with successive rows stacked on top (staggered joints like a brick wall) until the desired height is achieved. When using the single stack method be sure to press each sandbag down and force it into the surface creating a good seal. When adding multiple layers ensure that sandbag rows are laid to create overlapping joints.



SANDBAG PLACEMENT continued



PYRAMID LEVEE METHOD The pyramid levee method is a more structurally stable design intended to hold back significant amounts of water. The pyramid levee method is used stacking sandbags roughly 2 feet of width for every foot of elevation establishing a secure levee.

LINER METHOD For use with either the single stack or pyramid methods, begin by placing a layer of plastic, a tarp, or even trash bags along the path where the sandbags will go (this helps with waterproofing). Next, place your course of sandbags directly along the inside edge of the plastic (a few inches inside), now begin stacking. Before you complete the top course of sandbags fold the plastic liner over the top and place your last course directly on top of the liner holding it down. Not only will the liner act as a barrier protecting the sandbags from erosion, it will also make your wall more effective.

SANDBAG SAFETY

When working with sandbags remember to:

- Use proper lifting techniques
- Use precautions around moving water (even shallow moving water can have great force)
- Work with a partner or partners, sandbags can weigh 30 pounds or more
- Wear protective gear (flood water can carry contaminants)
- Be careful around down wires. Energized electrical lines can be deadly.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

STORM SURGE PROTECTION

If your property is at the beach and subject to damage from storm surge and associated debris, consider protecting your windows and glass doors with plywood sheeting. Rocks and other debris can be carried by wind and tidal activity damaging glass and allowing water to enter your property.

HAVE A PLAN TO SHELTER IN PLACE

Severe storms can interrupt utilities. Maintain a supply of drinking water, food, medication, a portable radio and batteries. Utilities may be down for many hours or even days be prepared for an extended stay. For more preparedness information visit www.readysandiego.org

HAVE AN EXIT PLAN

Be prepared to leave. If storm activity begins to increase, you will need to move to higher ground. Do not try to figure this plan out once the storm has arrived. Develop an exit route through the city and up to higher ground. Like a fire drill, practice the plan with your family ensuring that every member of the household knows the exit plan and where to meet.

RESEARCH AND THEN BUY FLOOD INSURANCE

Some insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding and if you rent, your property owners' insurance may not cover your belongings. If you are unsure about what is covered in your specific insurance policy contact your broker and schedule a consultation.

For additional questions please contact us directly:

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