HOW TO: FIGHT FLOODING at Home

EAsy ways to keep water out of your house

During the times of heavy rains, most damage to homes and property comes from flooded streets, particularly those with blocked drains. Be sure your gutters are clear of leaves and debris. Low curbs and sloping driveways also pose a problem.

HOME can be protected by redirecting the water flow. Sandbag walls can be used to divert water or mud. Place the sandbag walls so they channel the water to a clear drain or gutter.

Follow the directions on the back of this flyer for sandbag filling and laying.

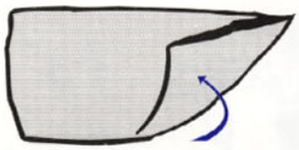
Information provided by California Department of Water Resources and California Conservation Corps.

HOW TO: Fill a sandbag & build a sandbag barrier

a. Work with another person, with one of you holding the bag while the other shovels sand or other material. The first shovelful is placed on the edge of the bag to keep the bag open. The bag holder should bend at the waist, with elbows resting on knees. The shoveler gets rounded scoops of sand and fills the bag **to just one-third full.** Avoid injury by not twisting while shoveling.

b. Fold over the open end of the bag in a triangle to prevent sand from leaking out. Close-knit burlap bags are recommended.

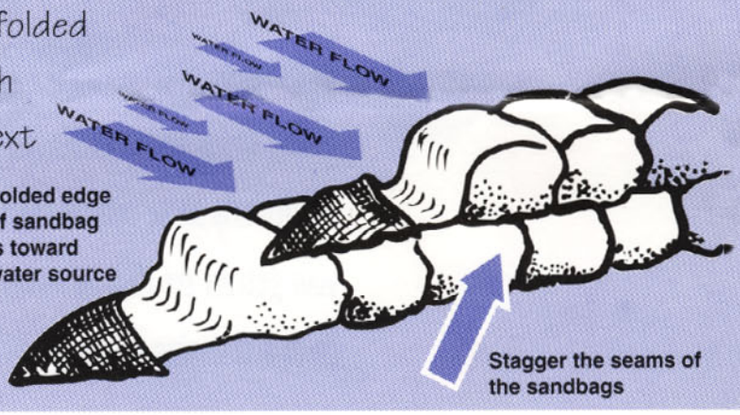
c. Your finished bags will look like this:



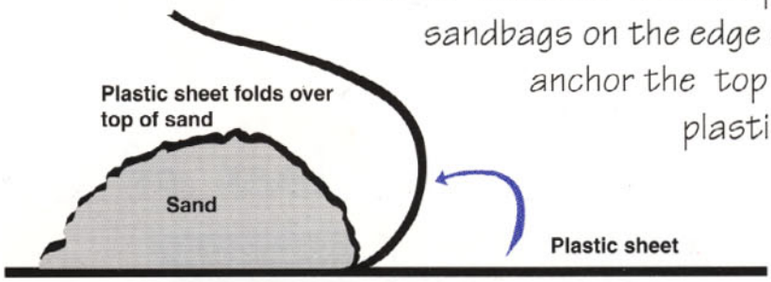
sandbag, 1/3 full, open end folded over - top view

sandbag, open end folded over - side view

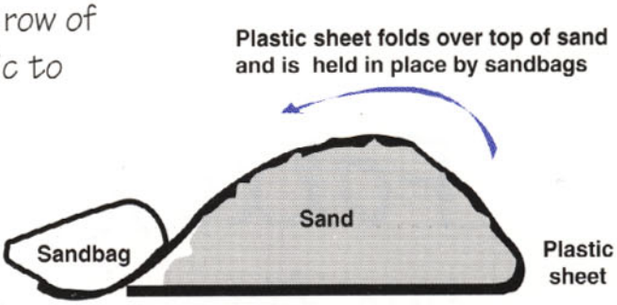
d. Place a line of bags with the folded side up, with folded edges facing the direction of water flow. Stomp each bag into place. Like you would with bricks, stagger the next layer of bags over the folded tops of the bags underneath. Stomp each layer of bags. To give the structure stability, the base should be 1.5 times wider than the height. (Example, 6 ft. wide by 4 ft. high)

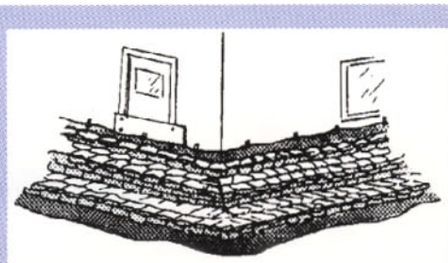


e. When you don't have time to build a sandbag barrier, use a temporary levee to raise low areas. Prepare ahead by buying 20-foot-wide sheets of plastic (6-10 mil thickness). Lay out the length you need and place sand, dirt, or gravel on the half facing your property. Fold over the other half and place a solid row of sandbags on the edge of the plastic to anchor the top edge of the plastic sheet.



Temporary Levee -Side View



Temporary Levee -Side View

f. In locations where water could rise with no current, such as at lake shores, lay visquine plastic on the ground and up to walls, and form a half pyramid of sandbags. Cover doors and vents with plywood.