

HOW TO SANDBAG YOUR HOME

PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

When an emergency happens, Civil Defence, emergency services, and contractors will likely be busy and unable to assist with sandbagging individual properties. It is the responsibility of property owners to take appropriate actions to protect their property from flooding.

If your life or property is in imminent danger call 111 and if needed move to a safe place

How to fill a sandbag

- ✗ Do not overfill sandbags
- ✗ Do not tie or seal the bag
- ✓ Only fill bags to half or two thirds. This gives the sand room to expand as it adsorbs the water. It will also allow the sand to shift about inside the bag, lie flat, and mould to fill any gaps.



In an emergency, sandbags can be used to block doorways and other openings into properties to keep water out for short periods. Water does seep through sandbags, even when well-stacked and trodden into place. This can be improved by using them in conjunction with plastic sheeting.

How to lay sandbags

- ✓ Place your first row of sandbags lengthwise and flat on the ground, butting each end to the next
- ✓ Ensure the unfilled part of the bag is covered by the next. Tuck flap under the bag at the end of the row
- ✓ Stamp them into place to remove air pockets
- ✓ Lay the next rows like brickwork, staggering the joints
- ✓ If available, place plastic sheeting under the first row of sandbags, between them and the water and under the top row of sandbags



GENERAL FLOODING INFORMATION

- If time permits, move valuable and dangerous items as high above the floor as possible. This includes electrical equipment and chemicals.
- Always assume that flood water is contaminated. Ensure hands, clothes and property are thoroughly cleaned after contact with flood water.
- **Be prepared to evacuate. Listen to emergency services and local civil defence. Follow any instructions about evacuation of your area. Self-evacuate if you feel unsafe.**



SELWYN DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT