

# Sandbag Barriers

## What are Sandbag Barriers?

Typical sandbags are constructed of plastic or treated burlap bags and are filled with sand or other fine-grained soils. Sandbags can be stacked to create temporary walls to protect structures from flooding or provide additional height to existing barrier protection systems when floodwaters reach critical levels.

## Where can they be installed?

Sandbags are typically used as a temporary, emergency measure at doorways and other flood-vulnerable building openings. In areas where there is advance warning of flooding and floodwater persists for long durations (i.e., several days), sandbags can be installed around a site's perimeter to protect the entire site.

## What else should you know about Sandbag Barriers?

Sandbags require a permanent storage area near the entrance(s) to be protected so that they can be placed quickly when flooding is predicted.

Pumping may be needed to drain any water seeping through the sandbag barrier if subjected to flooding for a prolonged period (i.e., several hours).

Sandbags may absorb pollutants from contaminated floodwaters, requiring them to be disposed of as contaminated soil.

Emergency placement should be planned well in advance under the direction of trained personnel for sandbags to be effective.

## Cost Range

Sandbags are typically sold as empty bags for less than \$1 per bag. Total costs depend on sand availability to fill the bags and the length and height of the sandbag barrier required.

## What type of protection do they provide?

Sandbags provide Active Dry Protection.



**with sandbags** (source: *nola.com*)

**A commercial building entrance protected**