



City of Seattle
Seattle Public Utilities



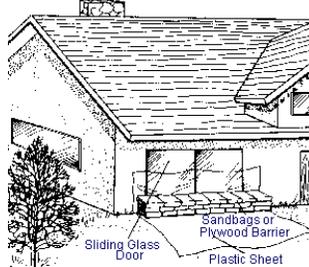
Placing, Stacking and Disposing of Sandbags

PLACING SANDBAGS TO DIVERT WATER AND DEBRIS

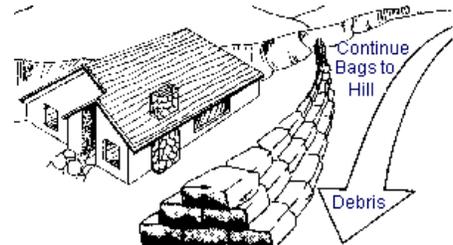
Sandbags don't seal out water, but can help redirect the flow of water and protect property from debris. Sandbags must be used with caution because it is illegal to divert water to your neighboring properties.



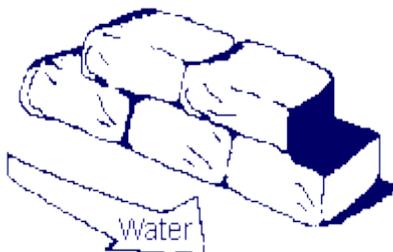
Place bags against house



Seal a sliding glass door

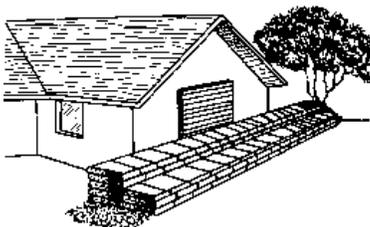


Direct debris away from home



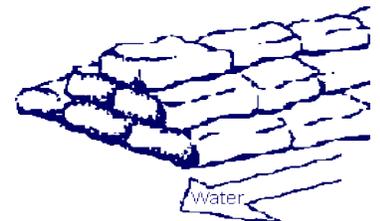
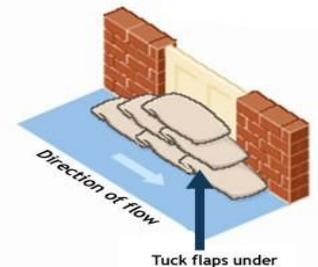
STACKING SANDBAGS

Care should be taken to stack the sandbags as shown in the illustrations to the left and right. Complete each layer before starting the next layer. Stamp bags firmly into place to eliminate gaps and create a tight seal.



Place no more than two layers unless a building is used as a backing (shown left) or sandbags are pyramided (shown right).

Positioning sandbags



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DISPOSING OF CONTAMINATED SANDBAGS

Sandbags contaminated by flood water...

...should be disposed of properly – do not place them in garbage or yard waste cans or throw away the sand in streets, ditches, down a drain or in water bodies. Floodwater is generally considered to be polluted, so sand from bags exposed to floodwater should not be used for children's sand boxes.

Please dispose of contaminated bags properly by taking them to Seattle Public Utilities' **South Transfer Station**, located at 8105 Fifth Avenue South, or **North Transfer Station** at 1350 North 34th Street. Both locations are open 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. 7 days a week, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Regular garbage rates apply.

REUSING OR DISPOSING OF UNCONTAMINATED SANDBAGS

Sandbags that have gotten wet from rain, but have not come in contact with flood water... are safe to reuse. Let them dry out in the sun. Give them to a friend if you no longer want them.

Clean, washed sand can be added to gardens as a soil amendment. Sand is useful to “break up” clay soil, making it less likely to hold too much water and allowing more air to reach plant roots. It can be added to any garden soil, if spread in moderate amounts - up to one inch spread over the surface and dug into the soil. Avoid adding sand if your garden soil is already sandy.

A small amount of uncontaminated sand can be placed in your garbage bin each collection period. Note that the total weight of your bin cannot exceed 20 pounds for a Micro (12-gallon) bin, 30 pounds for a Mini (20-gallon) bin, 60 pounds for a 32-gallon bin, 120 pounds for a 64-gallon bin, and 180 pounds for a 96-gallon bin.

You can also dispose of uncontaminated bags at the North or South Transfer Stations, address and hours above on this page. Regular garbage rates apply.

For more information about sandbags, go to www.seattle.gov/util/storm.