

Sandbagging for Flooding Protection

City of Charleston



City of Charleston

Streets And Sidewalks
2150 Milford St
Charleston, SC 29405

Phone: 843-724-7311
Email: alltopm@charleston-sc.gov



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Important Information

- Sandbags will only be available once the City has determined the need and a press release has been issued. Locations will be announced in the press release.
- Hours of operation for sandbags will verify based on conditions

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General Safety Precautions

- ▶ Dress in layers
- ▶ Reflective at night
- ▶ Work gloves
- ▶ Safety goggles
- ▶ Sun protection
- ▶ Food and water



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Sandbag Size and Fill Materials

- ▶ Bag sizes can vary
- ▶ Fill with any earth material
- ▶ Sand is easiest to handle
- ▶ **DO NOT OVERFILL!**
- ▶ Typically filled approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ full
- ▶ Limit filled bag weight to 35–40 pounds
- ▶ **Do not need to be tied, although they may be tied near the top**



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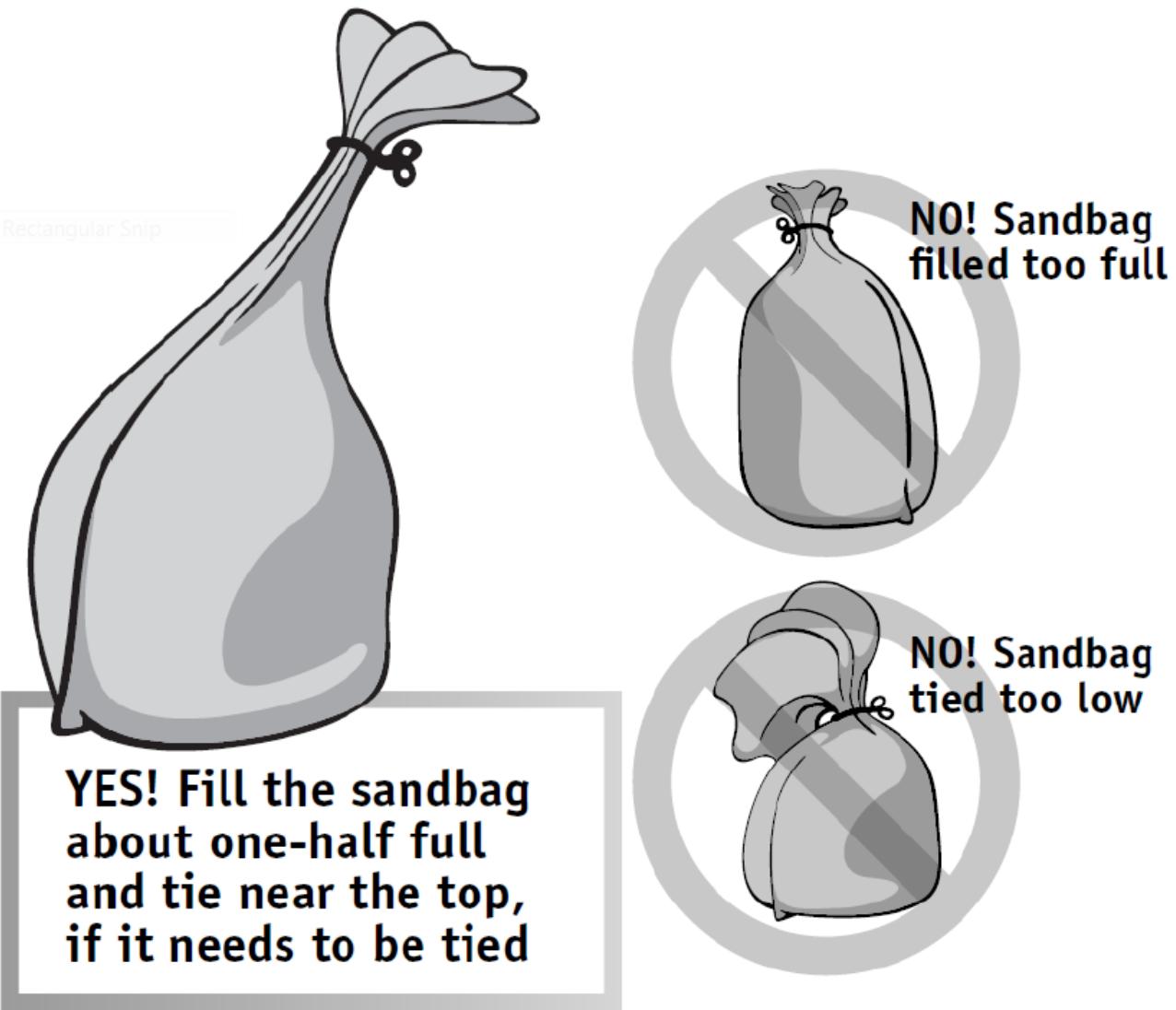
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Properly Filled Sandbags



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Site Selection and Preparation

- ▶ Consider the ground elevation, ground condition, obstructions, and alignment
- ▶ For stability, the barrier should be kept as short and low as possible
- ▶ Do NOT build against a building wall
- ▶ If possible, plan to leave at least 8 feet between the base of the barrier and any building or obstructions
- ▶ Interior drainage and pumping

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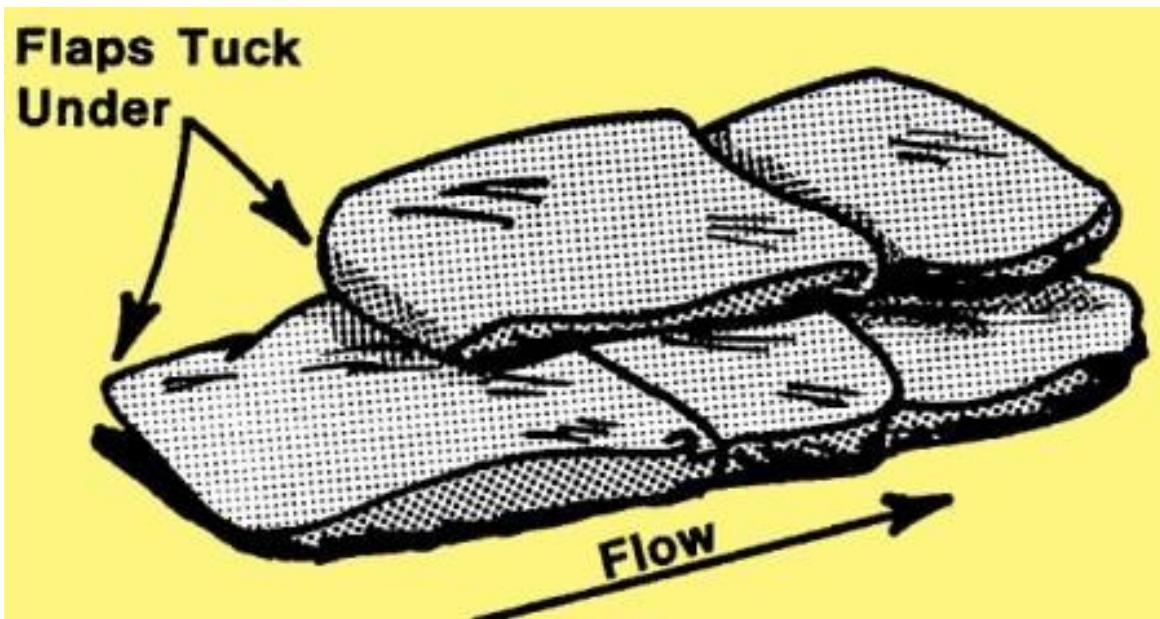


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Stacking Sandbags

- ▶ Place flat and lengthwise with the barrier
- ▶ Stagger in all three directions
- ▶ Avoid continuous joints
- ▶ Tuck flaps under the bag
- ▶ Foot-tamp compaction to minimize gaps



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Single Row Stacking

- ▶ Limit barrier height to no more than a few bags due to instability and hydrostatic pressure
- ▶ Proper placing, staggering very important
- ▶ Use in flooded backwaters
 - No streamflow velocity
 - No moving/floating debris



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Seepage

Percolation of water through or under the barrier.

Seepage is almost impossible to eliminate and any attempt to do so may create a much more severe condition.

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