



IMPORTANT SANDBAG INFORMATION

HOW TO USE SANDBAGS

The use of sandbags which are properly filled and placed may divert water around, instead of through, buildings. Sandbag construction does not guarantee a water-tight seal, but is satisfactory for use in most situations.

TYPES OF SANDBAGS

- **Burlap Sacks** – Available at feed or hardware stores. Empty bags can be stockpiled for emergency use, and will be serviceable for several years, if properly stored. Filled bags will deteriorate quickly.
- **Plastic Sandbags (polypropylene)** – Available online and at most hardware stores. Empty bags can be stored for a long time with minimum care. Filled bags are not biodegradable, so residents are required to dispose correctly (see Sandbag Handling, Reuse & Disposal Guide, back of page).
- **Do Not Use** – Garbage bags, as they are too slick to stack. Feed sacks, as they are too large to handle.

HOW TO FILL SANDBAGS

- Bring your own shovel, along with a partner to a sandbag operation site. Gloves are recommended, but not required. Make sure you or your partner are able to lift the sandbags, which weigh approximately 30 pounds on average.
- Bags should be filled between one-third (1/3) to one-half (1/2) of their capacity and then tied.
- Heavy bodied or sandy soil is recommended to fill sandbags. Avoid fine sand and rocky soil.

STACKING SANDBAGS

- **Barrier** – Used to increase the height of sandbag protection. Lay sandbags so that the barrier is built up with all the joints between the sandbags staggered and covered by other sandbags. As each sandbag is placed, it should be well stamped down to fill any voids between the rows and layers.
- **Doorways & Windows** – Sandbags can best be used to help protect doorways and windows if a waterproof layer is placed BEHIND properly filled and stacked bags. Use heavy plastic or waterproof canvas first, then stagger sandbags firmly to avoid any gaps.

FOR SANDBAG LOCATIONS DURING AN ACTIVATION, VISIT:

WWW.SEMINOLECOUNTYFL.GOV





IMPORTANT SANDBAG INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Sandbags used during a flood event may have come in contact with a myriad of substances in addition to water. These substance might include: sewage, petroleum, or other chemicals. This flyer is intended to assist citizens with appropriate sandbag handling, disposal, or reuse after a flood event.

**DO NOT PLACE FILLED SANDBAGS IN YOUR NORMAL GARBAGE OR AT THE CURB FOR DISPOSAL.
FULL SANDBAGS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.**

Proper sandbag disposal is the responsibility of the user whether that person is a resident, business owner, government entity, or not-for-profit organization. If your sandbag was provided by Seminole County or another source, proper disposal of the sandbag remains your responsibility.

HANDLING SANDBAGS:

- Consider the containments to which your sandbags may have been exposed before handling and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles).
- After handling sandbags, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

REUSE OF SANDBAGS:

- If your sandbags have been contaminated, then they should be properly disposed.
- Uncontaminated sandbags may be stored on your property for reuse; however, mold can become a problem if they are wet. Ensure sandbags are stored dry.
- Burlap and plastic sandbags free of contaminants may be reused at other flood sites or for a different use such as construction or permanent earthen structures.
- Uncontaminated dirt or sand (contents of the sandbag) may be reused on your property assuming the material is not used to fill a wetland or another protected area.
- Clean empty bags may be reused or disposed of as other waste would be.

DISPOSAL OF UNCONTAMINATED SANDBAGS:

- Full sandbags placed in the garbage or at the curb will not be picked up.
- Proper disposal varies based on what has come into contact with the sandbag.
- Uncontaminated full sandbags may be delivered to the Seminole County Landfill (1930 East Osceola Road, Geneva).

DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED SANDBAGS:

- Contaminated sandbags and its contents should not be reused.
- Contaminates might include: sewage, petroleum, or other chemicals.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when handling and ensure areas that come in contact with contaminated sandbags are disinfected.
- Sewage contaminated sandbags should be delivered to the Seminole County Landfill (1930 East Osceola Road, Geneva).
- Sandbags contaminated with petroleum and other chemicals may have to be disposed of as hazardous waste and laboratory testing may be required to determine.
- Contact Seminole County Solid Waste Customer Service for additional information: (407) 665-2260.