

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

CLEANING UP AFTER THE FLOOD

PROPER HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF SANDBAGS

After the floodwaters recede, homeowners and communities are typically responsible for the cleanup. This includes the proper handling and disposal of sandbags.

Sandbags should be removed when there is no longer a risk of flooding. Loose or leaking sand can create dangerous conditions for drivers and possibly affect streams, wetlands, and storm drains.



TIPS:

- Wear gloves and boots to protect yourself from scrapes and contaminants.
- If your sandbag has been in contact with flood water or if you suspect that sandbags have come into contact with industrial wastes, fuel, oil or other chemicals, sandbags must be disposed of at permitted waste handling facilities. Contact your Municipality or local landfill site for more information.
- Sand from used sandbags should not be used in sandboxes, playgrounds, or other areas where it will be in contact with people.
- Sand can be used to cover icy roads and sidewalks, mixed with concrete or mortar, as a base for sidewalks or pavement, or for cover in a landfill.
- Instead of disposal, empty sandbags can be saved for future use, or recycled.
- Clean, dry and filled sandbags can be saved and reused at other flood sites for up to 6 months. Contact your municipality to see if unused sandbags can be returned to the public works department.