

The Environment Agency says sandbags have many pitfalls and people should look to other products specifically designed to be fit for purpose when flooding strikes.

In a scathing report on sandbags the Agency states: "Sandbags are relatively ineffective when compared to purpose-built flood protection products. We strongly encourage people to use these products."

The report adds that sandbags:

- Do seep water even when well-stacked and trodden into place.
- It takes two people to fill them and around one hour to fill 12 sandbags.
- They can be difficult to handle and laying them can be very time-consuming.
- Sacking material is biodegradable and will perish if left in place for a long time.

Do Adur & Worthing Councils provide sand bags?



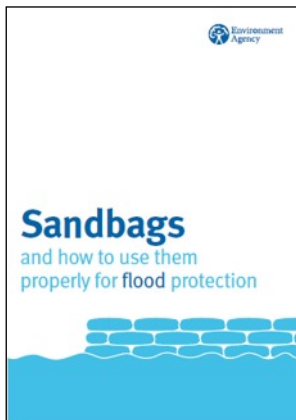
Adur & Worthing Councils do not routinely issue sand bags to property owners in times of flooding. The main priority is to protect critical infrastructure such as electricity sub stations, pumping stations, hospitals and the public at large. It remains the responsibility of the property owner to take appropriate action to protect their property from flooding. If a request for sand bags is made Adur and Worthing Councils will make every effort to protect the most vulnerable with the resources available at the time.

Where can I get sand bags and other flood protection products from?

Local builders merchants offer the best option for purchasing sand bags and more effective flood protection products. It can be confusing to decide what type of cost effective product is required. A charity called The National Flood Forum has produced the "Blue Pages" This is a directory of property flood products and services put together to advise and inform you of the range of products available to help reduce the risk of flooding to your home or business. This can be viewed by going to <http://www.bluepages.org.uk/> or phoning 01299 403055.



How to use Sand bags properly



Although sand bags are not the preferred method to protect property it is acknowledged that there are sometimes no alternative. The level of protection largely depends on how the bags are positioned. The Environment Agency has produced a useful document aimed to provide detailed advice. You can download a copy by clicking on the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>

Is there a sand bag alternative?

Press Release from the Environment Agency 6th June 2012

<http://www.floodsax.co.uk/2012/environment-agency-backs-inflatable-sandbags/>



The Environment Agency now says that anti-flood devices like FloodSax® are the way forward for people to protect their home.

On its website it warns people to prepare beforehand as they just won't have enough time to react to flooding emergencies. In its online [illustration of a house](#) the Agency states: "Flood sacks are a lighter, modern version of sandbags. The sacks need to be soaked in water so they expand, then placed around the entrances to your home to

protect against floodwater. They take up little storage and can be cost effective."

And the Agency warns: "The most important thing is to prepare now by buying flood products in advance. Don't wait until flooding looks likely as you won't have time to buy or put the measures in place."

Press Release from Floodsax 14th January 2014

<http://www.floodsax.co.uk/2014/shun-the-sandbag-says-environment-agency-2/>

PEOPLE should shun sandbags in favour of tailor-made flood protection products such as FloodSax sandless sandbags.

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And the report warns: "Don't assume that the authorities will provide you with sandbags in a flood emergency. It is the responsibility of property owners to take appropriate action to protect their property from flooding."

FloodSax sandless sandbags look at first like a large pillowcase, weigh just 700 grammes before they come into contact with water and then they expand in around three minutes to weigh 20kg (44lbs) which means they are easy to store and deploy by anyone.

FloodSax managing director Richard Bailey said: "We have heard some heartbreaking stories from customers over Christmas who were just not prepared for the floods which have devastated parts of the country.

"Many had no flood protection at all and thought their local councils would provide sandbags but it just didn't happen. Consequently, they were calling us as the water was just about to get into their homes.

"The Environment Agency realises the problems with deploying sandbags and then the big question marks over their effectiveness which is why they stress that people must turn to the specific anti-flooding products now on the market and select the best one suited to their property.

"FloodSax are among the most versatile as they take little storage room yet are there ready to deploy within minutes not only if your home or business is threatened with floodwater but also if you have a leak inside your premises as a FloodSax will simply soak it up."

FloodSax have been endorsed by organisations ranging from insurance giant Zurich to the National Disabled Fire Association.