



## CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

### Public Works Department - Engineering Division

1960 Tate Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Tel. No. 650.853.3189, Fax. No. 650.853.3179

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### Sandbag Placement Recommendations

Place the sandbags **OUTSIDE** and against the doors where water enters your home.

**Garage:** If water comes into your garage, sandbags should be directly against the access door into your home for support (Figure 1). Garages can withstand low flooding with less damage than the interior of your home. Objects stored in the garage at lower levels should be moved higher or placed inside the home if flooding is a concern.

**Exterior Doors:** If the water enters your home through your front or back door, place the sandbags **OUTSIDE** directly against that door (Figure 1). Do not open that door until the water has dropped below the sandbags.

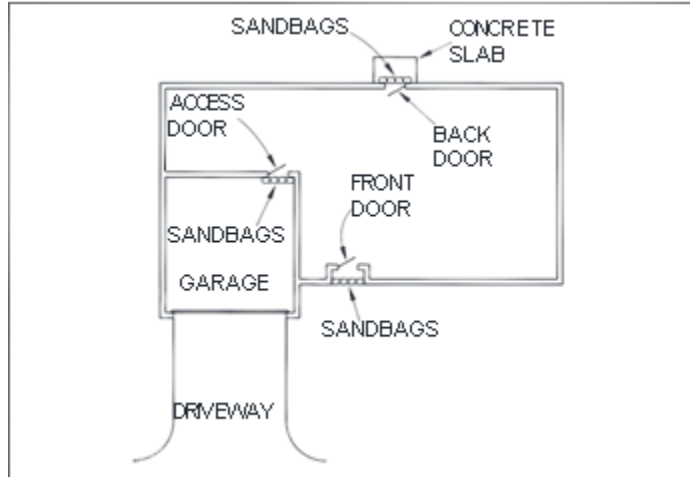
Sandbags will not block water from seeping through. If you expect to have water against the bags for quite a while, wrap the bags with plastic as follows: Place a plastic sheet (garbage bags or shower liners will work) on the ground against the door you're protecting. (The plastic should extend away from the door at least three feet if you are only using one row of sandbags.) Place the bags on top of the plastic, pressing them firmly against each other and the door frames (Figure 2). Lift the remaining plastic over the bags and tuck the plastic underneath the back of the bags. For higher stacks, use wider plastic. If more than one plastic sheet is used, use heavy wrapping or duct tape to seal the sheet ends together. When blocking a doorway or entry, it may help to place a piece of plywood the width of the doorway prior to placing the plastic sheets (Image 1&2).

Remove any debris from the areas where bags are to be placed. Place bags lengthwise and parallel to the direction of flow. Ensure that the bag is placed with the closed end facing the water flow, and fold front end slightly. One (1) sandbag can cover 1 ft in length and a rise in 4-6". When stacking sandbags make sure to flatten the bags and overlap joints. For every 2-3 rows up add another row in front

Sandbags are not dams. If you have water that normally runs across your property, the sandbags can be used to guide the water past your home but cannot be used to stop all water from coming onto your site. Even shallow flowing water can move vehicles. Place the sandbags only as needed to prevent water from entering your home. Note: In an emergency, you can make your own sandbags using plastic garbage bags and soil from your yard.

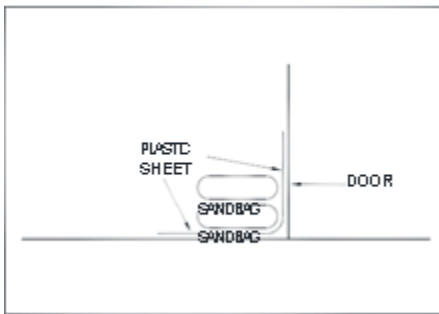
Sandbags can be picked up from the City of East Palo Alto's Corp Yard located at 150 Tara Road East Palo Alto, CA 94303. **Limit is 10 sandbags per household.**

Additional Source: US Army Corps of Engineers Sandbagging Techniques  
<https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/vertical/sites/%7BF991A639-AAED-4E1A-9735-86EA195E2C8D%7D/uploads/SandbagPamphlet.PDF>



*Figure 1*

*Image Source: Leon County Public Works*



*Figure 2*

*Image Source: Leon County Public Works*



*Image 2 & 3: Placement of plywood and plastic sheet*

*Image Source: Santa Clara Valley Water*