

SANDBAG POLICY

If your property is in imminent danger of flooding please telephone 01303 853000 or 01303 221888 (out of hours)

The Council's policy for sandbagging is to assist with the prevention of damage to property by flooding. This may be achieved by the filtering, containment or diversion of floodwaters from rivers or watercourses.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council residents are responsible for protecting their own property from flooding and residents are strongly recommended to make provision, in advance, against the risk of flooding especially if you live in a property or area that is known to flood or have requested sandbags in the past.

The Council keep a limited stock of empty sandbags for residents to collect in order to protect external doors and air bricks that are at flood risk.

The Council is unable to provide sandbags to protect businesses, land, gardens, garages, sheds, outhouses, drives or similar as this diverts resources away from protecting homes.

Please note filled sandbags will only be provided in response to emergency situations. We regret that we cannot issue sandbags, 'just in case', as sandbags deteriorate relatively quickly and may be unusable when you need to rely upon them.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council has in place a Major Emergency Plan and will respond to flooding events. We do not have a statutory duty to provide sandbags, but experience shows that the community expects the Council to help if flooding is imminent. It is important that we handle enquiries sympathetically but in accordance with the following principles:

- We will maintain a stock of sandbags across the District.
- We will not provide sandbags to non-residential properties. The protection of shops, businesses and commercial properties is the responsibility of the owners/occupiers. They should undertake their own risk assessment and make provision for the supply and positioning of sandbags.
- We will supply sandbags free of charge on a "needs" basis in response to flooding emergencies.
- We will not supply sandbags in advance based on forecasts.
- If requests for supply or delivery are received during an emergency situation, we will consider them sympathetically on a case-by-case basis according to apparent vulnerability.
- We will encourage property owners in known flood areas to adopt a "self-help" approach and prepare in advance and respond to forecasts or flood warnings.
- We will encourage people making enquiries for sandbags at these stages to look to local suppliers such as builder's merchants where they can purchase them or possibly have them delivered. This will help to preserve our stocks for emergency response.
- The Environment Agency promotes self-help schemes and we will refer people to their website. ([Go to environment agency website](#)).
- Once issued to householders the disposal of contaminated sandbags following a flooding event will not be the responsibility of Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

Information can be provided on the most appropriate method of disposal but once issued the sandbags become the property of the occupier or organisation.