

# Sandbagging Your Home

Sandbag protection for your property could significantly aid in the reduction/mitigation of water damage during/after a storm. However, sandbagging must be done correctly in order to be effective. The following are procedural suggestions for properly sandbagging your home:

- If not working on concrete, a small ditch should be dug deep enough to go below ground level. The ditch should be back far enough from the entrance to allow room to place pumps into the protected area.
- The edge of the visqueen should be placed in the ditch as a bottom layer.
- Place the first row of sandbags in the ditch, fold visqueen over the top of the first row, place a second row of bags on top, fold the visqueen back over that row, place a third row of bags on top, and so on. This creates an “S” pattern with the visqueen.



Proper sandbagging will create an “S” pattern. (See black material between sandbags)

- Depending on the size of the barrier, one or more submersible (sump) pumps should be utilized. The barrier will not completely stop water from entering the protected area. However, with the proper placement of bags, visqueen and sump pumps, water, in most cases can be removed quickly.

## *Keep in Mind:*

- Caution should be used when cutting visqueen.
- Always get someone to help you fill sandbags, and be sure to use the proper lifting techniques to avoid injury.



- Stack the sandbags AT LEAST three rows high to ensure proper coverage.
- When placing sandbags, be sure to leave space between the bags and the area being barricaded. This will allow room for the sump pump to drain seepage. NOTE: Sandbagging does not completely eliminate the flow of water.
- Always use caution when dealing with electrical equipment in or near flooded areas (e.g. submersible pump).



If you need additional information on sandbagging or would like to report flooded areas, please call Gulf County Emergency Management at (850) 229-9110.