

## **SANDBAG POLICY**

**If your property is in imminent danger of flooding please telephone 01454 868009**

South Gloucestershire 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 sandbags for residents to collect in order to protect external doors and air bricks that are at flood risk. Residents will normally be restricted to a maximum of 6 sandbags per external doorway. The Council is unable to provide sandbags to protect land, gardens, garages, sheds, outhouses, drives or similar as this diverts resources away from protecting homes.

Please note sandbags will only be provided in response to emergency situations. You cannot collect sandbags from our depot at Broad Lane, Proof of address is required to ensure limited stocks reach the most vulnerable areas/properties. 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.

***If you require sandbags as a precautionary measure you will need to make your own arrangements to purchase them from local suppliers.***

South Gloucestershire Council has in place an Emergency Management 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 at depots across South Gloucestershire.
- 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.
- Once issued to householders the disposal of contaminated sandbags following a flooding event will not be the responsibility of South Gloucestershire 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.

### **Notes:**

1. We have limited supplies of sandbags and these can disappear quite quickly if we supply too soon.
2. We try and time it right but flooding is notoriously difficult to predict with any degree of accuracy.
3. Builders Merchants / sandbag supplier details for the various areas - see Builders Merchants in yellow pages or carry out a search on the internet.
4. Visit National Flood Forum for helpful advice [www.floodforum.org.uk](http://www.floodforum.org.uk) and supplier information from [www.blupages.org.uk](http://www.blupages.org.uk)
5. The Environment Agency website is [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### **Flood Protection Products**

There are a number of different Flood Protection products available on the market and residents are advised to consider these since sandbags are unlikely to be effective for prolonged periods or where there is severe flooding. Flood Protection Products are Kite Marked.

### **Supply of Sandbags for Businesses**

Due to limited stock of sandbags, the council are unable to provide sandbags for business. Businesses are advised to contact local building merchants for supplies of sandbags and sand.