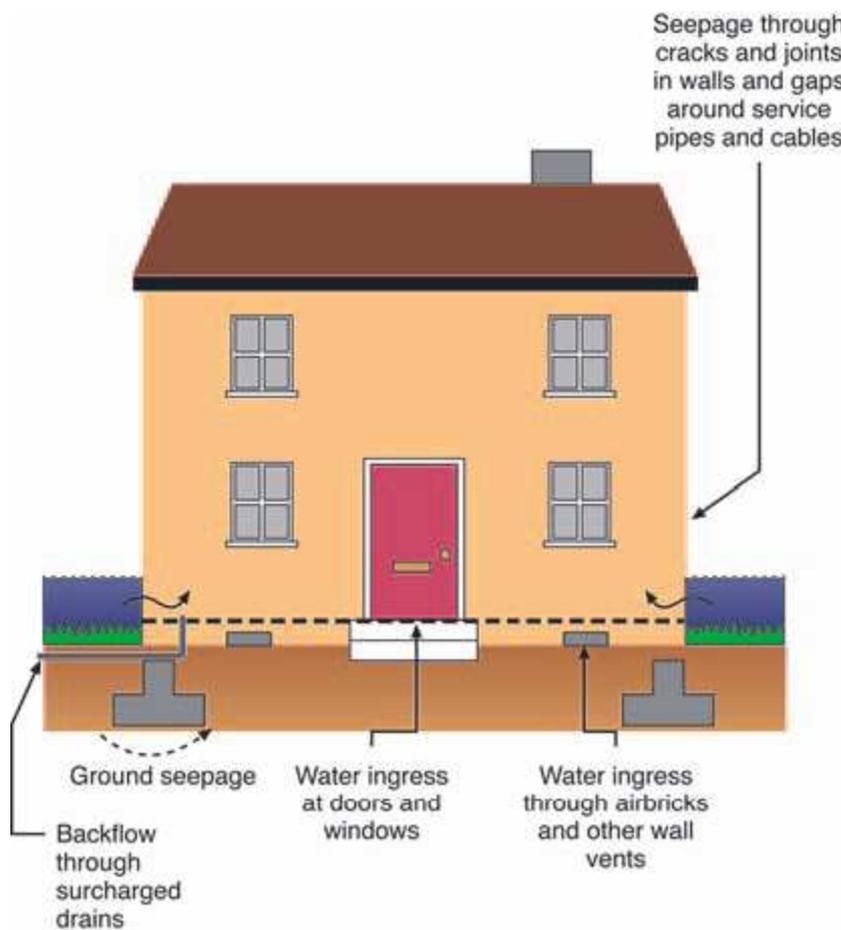


Flood Protection Advice

How Water Can Enter Your Property

Floodwater can enter a property by many routes. Water can enter around closed doorways and airbricks. Overloaded sewers can flow back inside the property through ground floor toilets and sinks water can seep through the cracks and joints in external walls and sometimes directly through the construction materials, e.g. bricks water can seep through the ground and up through the ground floor water can enter from cracks and joints around cable services through external walls water can enter through service outlets, e.g. washing machine. Finding these possible entry points will help you to reduce the chances of floodwater entering your property. The flooding routes will depend on how the property is constructed; the underlying ground conditions and expected flood depth. As the entrances to many properties are higher than the internal base, flood water can remain long after the flood has gone, therefore increasing the damage caused.



Dry-proofing Measures: These keep water out of the building, e.g. sandbags and flood boards. If a building is flooded for long periods or by depths of water above one metre, the measures will be less effective. Simple measures are unlikely to stop water from coming in for more than a few hours while more complex solutions may protect the building for a day or two.

Sandbags

Sandbags are one of the most popular methods of flood defence for a property. Unfilled sandbags and sand are available at selected South Kesteven parish councils, SKDC will respond to requests from vulnerable or infirm members of the community and deliver sand bags to them in times of increased flood risk, sand and sandbags can also be purchased at many DIY stores and local builders merchants as well as specialist Grantham based sand bag supplier SG Baker on Old Wharf Road 01476 565501. When filling sandbags **do not use soft sand** as this will not hold back water sharp sand is ideal. If you are unable to obtain sandbags and sand, you can fill bin bags, carrier bags or even pillowcases with soil from the garden. Put a plastic sheet down first to act as an extra seal. It is not necessary to tie the ends; however, to be effective they must be laid correctly.

Using Sandbags

Two people will be required to fill sandbags, one to hold the bag while the other one fills. Sand is abrasive, so both of you should wear gloves while doing this. Do not over-fill the sand bags. They should be approximately 2/3 full. Remove all debris from the area where the sandbags are to be placed. Place bags in layers, like a brick wall, ensuring that the next layer overlaps the one below by half see figure 1. Stamp bags firmly into place to close gaps and create a tight seal. If you need to create sandbag protection that is more than three layers high, you should use a pyramid shape see figure 2. For the structure to be stable the width should be three times the height. Place the bags in alternate layers lengthways and crosswise, stamping each bag in place and tucking the loose ends under the filled portion of the bag. If sandbags come into contact with floodwater they may contain contaminants such as sewage. Wear rubber gloves when removing used sandbags after a flood. The disposal of sandbags will be your responsibility, check with your local authority for advice on disposal.

Figure 1

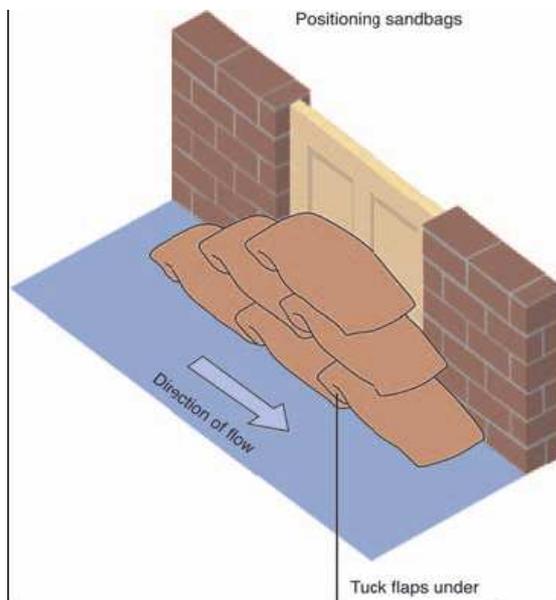
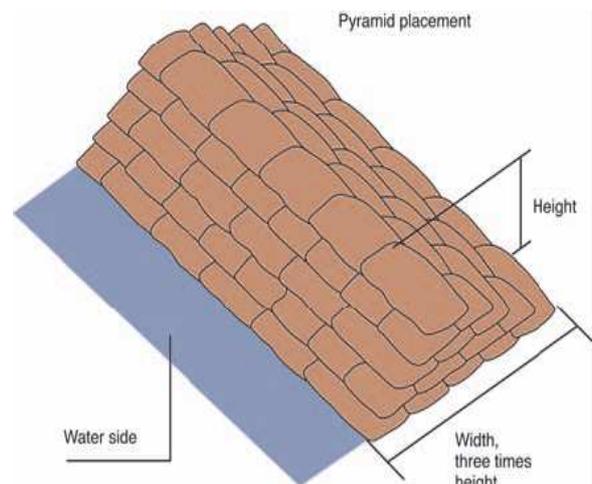


Figure 2



Guidance On Sandbag Use

- It is essential to fill and lay sandbags correctly.
- Do not over fill them (no more than half to three-quarters full).
- When laid, stamp them down well to force the upper bags to mould themselves to the lower bags.
- Build up the layers like brickwork with the bottom row butted up tight to each other, end to end, well stamped down before laying the second row on top.
- If the wall is more than two sandbags high, use a double line of bags for the first two layers and a single line on top.

Sandbag Storage

The sandbags issued to the parish councils by SKDC are Polypropylene. Although initially strong they do degrade during prolonged exposure to direct sunlight (UV). When not in use sandbags should be empty, covered and stored in a dark place.