

Top 5 Reasons Why Sandbags are an Unsound Choice

“While those who were unable to get hold of sandbags complained, others who did get hold of sandbags quickly became aware of their limitations, and commented that their time could have been better spent in, for example, moving valuables to safety rather than in fruitless efforts to keep the water out.” (Sir Michael Pitt, 2007 Flood Review)



“The Review was unable to obtain any significant evidence that sandbags were particularly effective during the 2007 summer floods in providing protection to individual households.” (Sir Michael Pitt, 2007 Flood Review)



“Flood water may be contaminated with sewage waste that contains harmful bacteria.” (University of Kentucky)



“Research by the Environment Agency has suggested that at best sandbags offer a 40 per cent chance of success in keeping water out.” (Sir Michael Pitt, 2007 Flood Review)



1. Deployment Requires Significant Resources

It takes an enormous amount of labor and resources to locate, fill and deploy sandbags. The majority of sandbags are filled by hand one at a time; a two person job. Locating enough sand to fill all of the necessary bags is difficult and may involve travel and transportation of heavy, loose sand. Once full, the 45-75 pound bags have to be carried to the desired location. The sheer number of bags required for proper mitigation makes this a colossal task. In order to create a stable barrier, the sandbags must be layered and stacked correctly; the higher the barrier the number of sandbags needed increases rapidly. Hours will be spent completing the process; protection for an average home takes 8 hours.

2. Cleanup Requires Significant Resources

After the danger of a flood has passed, the task of cleanup can be monumental. Significant hours are spent carrying and emptying used sandbags. Soaked, contaminated and heavy bags must be removed and disposed of, often far from the site of deployment. Sandbags will not stop all of the water from entering your home and coming in contact with your valuables, which then have to be cleaned and sanitized.

3. Flood Water Contains Dangerous Bacteria

Sandbags that come into contact with flood water may be contaminated with multiple viruses, dangerous levels of bacteria and various toxic chemicals. Nature Journal of Science found that samples of the flood waters swamping New Orleans taken from residential areas revealed dangerous levels of lead and coliform bacteria. These hazardous materials remain trapped in the sand, making disposal problematic.

4. Sandbag Costs Add Up Quickly

While a sandbag itself may seem inexpensive, the costs involved with deployment and cleanup add up quickly. Protecting the average home requires over 300 sandbags, costing almost 400 dollars (excluding labor). If you do not have enough sand or suitable material to fill the bags at your home, purchasing fill material will only add to the cost. Added to the hours of labor needed to deploy and remove the sandbags, event costs hundreds of dollars.

5. DoorDam Provides Superior Protection and Value

The downfalls of sandbags are daunting, but DoorDam supplies an answer. Reusable flood barriers provide advanced protection from damaging flood waters. Patented engineering saves precious time; DoorDam is a lightweight solution and can be deployed in under three minutes. Cleanup is safe and easy. Simply hose off your DoorDam and store for the next flood event. By eliminating the costs associated with sandbag deployment, DoorDam pays for itself within three years.