Sandbags and the alternatives

Council has Emergency Sand Stockpiles located around the region that the public can obtain sand for use in an emergency to fill their own sandbags to protect their property from flooding. We are encouraging residents to become more self-reliant with the stockpiles available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Sand stockpiles are located at:

- Norris Rd reserve, North Mackay (PCYC end)
- 374 Shakespeare Street, West Mackay (beside the 122 Army Cadet Buildings)
- Hume Street, West Mackay (Entrance to Council Depot Complex)
- Mackay Stadium, South Mackay (Gravel overflow carpark on Leisure Street off Bridge Road)
- Corner Victoria & Augusta Streets, Mirani
- Brewers Road, SES Facility, Sarina
- 103 Campwin Beach Road, SES Facility, Campwin Beach
- 17 Letchford Street, SES Facility, Finch Hatton
- 40 Zelma Street, Grasstree Beach (Combined Emergency Services Facility)
- Bull Street, SES Facility, Koumala
- 1503 Midge Point Road, SES Facility, Midge Point

You are reminded to take along a shovel or something similar to assist in filling your own sandbags. Hessian or poly-weave sandbags may be purchased from most hardware stores.

Home alternatives

In some cases it’s not always possible to obtain sandbags and if you do, they can be heavy and difficult to move by yourself.

Did you know that you may have suitable alternatives to sandbags in your home already?

Items such as bricks, garden edging, potting mix and plastic bags, green shopping bags and garbage bags full of sand or wet clothing can be used.
You can also re-use poly weave bags such as garden fertilizer and manure bags as suitable alternatives.

The best protective measures include the use of materials such as black plastic, or any material that creates a water-proof barrier.

These barriers need to be weighed down at the bottom and secured at the top.

After using sandbags, empty the sand out and hang them out to dry so you can reuse them.

**Sand-less (gel) bags**

Gel bags are light-weight biodegradable sandbags with a five year shelf life when stored in the vacuum sealed packages they come in and can be purchased from most hardware stores.

**Permanent door slides**

Door slides are a permanent fixture to doors in which a plywood barrier can be slotted into.

**Gutter Flumes**

Gutter flumes can be purchased from most hardware stores and are a cheap and reusable alternative to sandbags.

Gutter flumes can be cut to size, zip-tied, taped and filled with water. They can provide a great barrier to divert water away from your property.

For more information phone council on 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529) or visit the website mackay.qld.gov.au