

## How to Lay Sandbags

Hi, I'm Dave O'Shannessy from the South Australian Emergency Service. Today I'm here to talk to you about sandbags. Sandbags are a great way to protect your home in the event that it is going to flood. There are 5 key things you should consider when it comes to using sandbags to protect your home.

- Firstly, make sure you work safely. Wear gloves, sunnies (safety glasses are better), and shoes or boots.
- Secondly, make sure you do not overfill the sandbags. They can get very heavy, especially when they are wet. 2/3 full is ideal.
- The third thing you need to consider is where you are going to lay the sandbags. External doors are an obvious choice, as well as your garage doors. You can also use sandbags to block external ventilation points, or seal a toilet so that sewage does not flow back into your home.
- How you lay sandbags is also important. Aim to stagger them on top of each other, the same way a brickie would lay bricks.
- Finally, dispose of the sandbags appropriately. One of the things you can do is empty the contents onto a garden bed and drop the empty bag into your household rubbish.

This has been a snapshot of what you can do to protect your home with sandbags. For more information and tips, find our fact sheet on the SES website [www.ses.sa.gov.au](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au).