

Blaby District Council **Sandbag Policy**

Local Authorities do not have a statutory duty to provide residents with sandbags and maintain only limited stocks for the following reasons: -

- Sandbags provide only limited protection against flooding and are relatively ineffective when compared with purpose designed flood protection products.
- Transportation and the correct positioning of sandbags on a timely basis (before flooding has occurred) often prove difficult, particularly in the event of widespread disruption.
- Sandbags have a limited shelf life.
- There is limited space to store sandbags.

The Council will prioritise sandbag provision as follows:

1. To protect critical infrastructure and buildings, e.g hospitals and substations.
2. To facilitate access for the Emergency Services
3. To protect the habitable parts of private property of the elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents.

In an emergency situation the Council may be able to deliver sandbags depending upon the individual circumstances and subject to available resources but this cannot be guaranteed.

Water activated sandbags can be purchased from the Council subject to availability. Charges may vary and are currently £10 per 1.5 metre water activated sandbag.

Sandbags will not be made available for the protection of gardens, outbuildings or garages.

The primary responsibility for protecting property from the risk of flooding rests with the property owner.

The Council urges those living within areas identified at being at risk from flooding to follow the advice of the Environment Agency to protect their homes. To help reduce the risk of flooding and information on what to do before, during, and after a flood incident please read the guidance document:

[Flooding advice for the public](#) (PDF Document, 5.3 Mb)

Other flood defence products available to buy:

The National Flood Forum (<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>) a charity set up to support those affected by flooding have a list of available flood protection products on their blue pages <http://bluepages.org.uk/>

Flood protection devices can be purchased from builders merchants, some DIY stores or online.