

King tides and coastal storm information

In Auckland, when large high tides or 'king tides' occur, only a small-to-moderate storm surge is required to flood some areas. This could be caused simply by strong winds and ocean swell.

Here are some tips to help you prepare if you think coastal inundation or king tides may affect you:

- Check our hazard viewer on our website to see whether your property is at risk of coastal inundation. Visit: aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz
- If time permits, move valuable household possessions out of areas that flood
- In an emergency, use sandbags to divert water away from your home (see steps for how to do this on the inside page)
- If your home has been flooded, seek professional advice about how to properly dry it out
- Don't forget: if flood waters have reached your home, check with an electrician before using any plugs or sockets
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit or water-tight box. You may need quick, easy access to these documents. Keep them in a safe place less likely to be damaged during a flood.

Contact us

Auckland Council

For news, building control, council information and assistance:

09 301 0101

Auckland Emergency Management

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates:

Facebook: AKLcdem

Twitter: AucklandCDEM

Visit: aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz to sign up for alerts and learn about of emergency preparedness.

Useful links

King tides Auckland –

auckland.kingtides.org.nz/next-king-tide/

facebook.com/kingtidesakl/

Auckland Transport – Twitter

twitter.com/AklTransport

Metservice Tides

www.metservice.com

If life or property is at risk, call 111.

Guide to sandbag use for properties at risk from king tides and coastal storms

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Why use sandbags:

In an emergency, sandbags can be used to block doorways, drains and other openings into properties to keep water out for short periods. Water does seep through sandbags, even when well-stacked and trodden into place, and this can be improved by using them in conjunction with plastic sheeting.

If planning to use sandbags, do remember:

- You will need a wall at least three bags high to keep out 20 cm of water at a standard door opening. Each sandbag will need approximately 15 kg of sand or soil
- It is easiest to use two people to fill them
- They can take time to fill (approximately one hour to fill 12 sandbags)
- They can be difficult and heavy to handle
- Laying them can be very time consuming
- Unsupported walls of bags should only be placed up to three layers/rows for stability
- It is difficult to place sandbags in water and particularly in running water, so plan to do this in advance.

Property owners' responsibility:

It is the responsibility of property owners to take appropriate action to protect their property from flooding, so if you are in an area at risk of coastal inundation, please take steps to be prepared.

Sandbags are a temporary measure – if your property floods regularly, please seek advice on other flood-proofing options.

How to fill and place sandbags:

Filling sandbags:

Garden centres have heavy soil or sand that can be used to fill sandbags, or use soil from your garden. Don't use gravelly or rocky soils, as this will let the water through. It's easiest if two people are involved – one to hold the bag and the other to shovel the soil or sand in. Handy tips:

- Only fill bags to half or two-thirds full. This gives the soil or sand room to expand as it absorbs the water
- Don't tie or seal the bag – when you put it in place, fold the flap into a triangle and tuck it under the bag.

Building a sandbag wall:

- Place your first row of sandbags lengthwise and flat to the ground, butting each end to the next, folding the open end of the sandbag underneath. Stamp them into place to remove air pockets
- Place the second row of sandbags on top staggering the joints, compacting each sandbag as you go
- If you are using plastic sheeting, place it in front of the sandbags, between them and the water, then weigh down the bottom and top with extra sandbags.

Drying sandbags for reuse:

- When the water has receded, separate your sandbags, lay them out or stand them up and let them dry out thoroughly
- When they are dry, store them for use again. Wet sandbags will rot or deteriorate quickly.

Sandbagging diagrams:

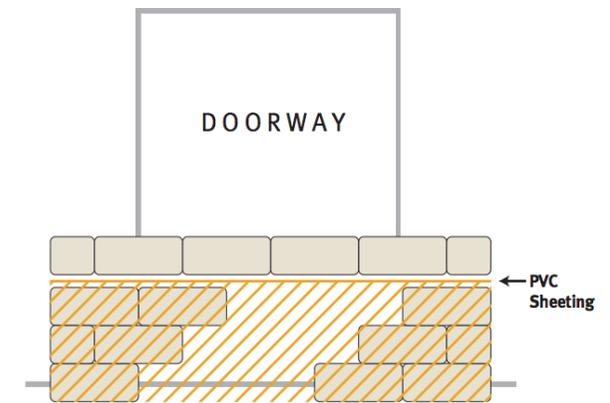


Figure 1. Sandbag view across doorway (view from waterside)

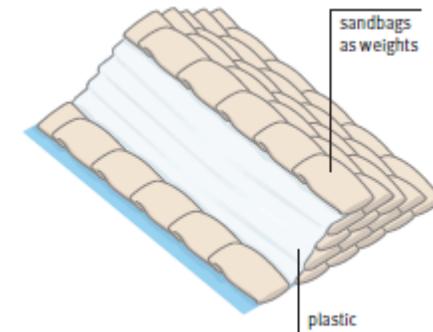


Figure 2. Additional waterproofing

Disposing of sandbags:

- To dispose of sandbags, scatter their contents in your garden. Please do not leave bags on the kerbside, as they will not be collected and may clog up our drains
- If you are advised that floodwaters have been contaminated, please contact Auckland Council for advice on disposing any sandbags that have come into contact with contaminated water.

