



RECOGNITION: RESPONSE: RESPECT

FLOOD BAG INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE.

As soon as the flood warning is received, or flooding appears inevitable, remove the required number of Bags from storage. Also, consider bringing other items that may be needed, to the site of the first flood defence to be constructed.

The Flood Bags are supplied in bundles of 25 in a protective wrapper. Take out a few Bags, and immerse them completely in water for 5-6 minutes, to inflate them to a target height of 9-10 cm. The Flood Bags can be soaked in a pond or shallow stream, or a trough or tank. A wheel barrow filled with a hose is another possibility. Alternatively, the bags can be soaked indoors; in a bath, shower tray or large sink. If flooding has already started, bags can be laid in the flood water to soak it up.

Do not immerse the Flood Bags for longer than 5-6 minutes, as the bags will be about 90% inflated after this time. It is better to complete the inflation process after the bags have been incorporated into the flood defence structure. If the Flood Bags are not immersed completely, the inflation to the target height may take longer than 6 minutes. For faster inflation, move the Bag around under the water and squeeze the material inside.

Construct the defence :

The Flood Bags are used in the construction of flood defences, in a similar way to traditional sandbags. They can be used to form a dam, or to build a flood defence barrier. Used in combination with plastic sheeting will increase efficiency and reduce any seepage.

Remove any debris from the area. Place the inflated Flood Bags lengthways and parallel to the direction of water flow. The Bags conform to surrounding surfaces. Drop the bags into place to help eliminate gaps and create a seal (interleave a plastic sheet between layers of bags to improve the seal).

Place bags in layers, like courses of bricks in a wall, making sure that each bag overlaps the one below by half. The best construction with minimal seepage is built using butt-joints between bags, created by pushing two bags together so that the height is the same at the joint as in the middle of the bags. The Flood Bags should be butted up to a wall or other surface in the same way. A dam can be built with a minimum wall thickness of one bag length.

Dropping the bags hard onto the course below helps consolidate the bags. If the dam needs to be more than three layers high, for it to be stable, it should be built in a pyramid style, 2-3 times as wide as it is high, with alternate layers lengthwise and crosswise.



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