



# Sandbag Toolkit Language

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## General Facts

- Residents should check with their participating local fire district for sandbag availability and distribution information on district websites or social media.
- Lee County Public Safety purchases and provides sand and sandbags to local fire districts; districts handle distribution to the public through a program supported by Public Safety.
- You can find your local fire district using the Lee County Resident Information Tool by searching for your home address at [leegov.com](http://leegov.com).
- Sandbags will not completely stop water, but they can reduce the amount entering your home.
- Sandbags are only recommended for residents who may experience flooding **less than 15 inches** from rain or tides. Sandbags won't stop water completely, but they can reduce the amount of water entering your home. They will not protect against waves and storm surge associated with larger storms.
- Each sandbag should be filled halfway to two-thirds full, weighing about 30–40 pounds.
- Sandbag walls taller than five bags high should be built two bags wide for stability.

## Preparation & Use Tips

- Bring gloves and a shovel when filling sandbags.
- Residents are responsible for loading and hauling filled bags to their property.
- Know the weight limit of your vehicle and your own lifting limits.
- Start with a plastic sheet or tarp under the first layer of bags for better water resistance.
- Stack sandbags like brickwork, staggering rows so joints do not align.
- Do not overfill or tie bags too low, this makes them harder to stack and less effective.

## Disposal & Reuse Guidance

- Sand from bags not soiled by stormwater can be reused in yards, flowerbeds or planters.
- Consider keeping sandbags for reuse during hurricane season, which runs through November 30.
- Store filled bags in a dry, shaded area or empty clean sand and store bags separately.
- Unusable sand or sandbags can be taken to the Lee-Hendry Landfill at 5500 Church Road, Felda, FL 33930.
- Place empty bags (but not sand) in your regular trash if you don't plan to reuse them.

## Sandbag Don'ts

- Don't return sandbags to fire stations.
- Don't take sand from beaches.
- Don't place empty sandbags in recycle bins.
- Don't dump sand on beaches, volleyball pits or county parks.
- Don't dispose of sand or full sandbags in regular trash or yard waste.
- Don't burn sandbags in fire pits.
- Don't dump sandbags on private property or unauthorized locations (illegal dumping may result in fines).

## Sample Social Media Captions

### Plan Ahead

Free sandbags are available through your local fire districts. Bring gloves and a shovel to fill, and remember—you'll need to load and transport bags yourself. Check your fire district's website or social media for the latest updates.

### Use Effectively

Did you know? Sandbags should be filled halfway (about 30–40 pounds each) and stacked like brickwork for the best protection. Small steps like this make a big difference in reducing floodwater.

### After the Storm

Don't throw used sandbags in the trash or recycling bin. Clean sand can be reused in your yard or garden, and unusable bags can be taken to the Lee-Hendry Landfill.

### Stay Safe

Sandbags can help reduce flooding in heavy rain - but they are not recommended for storm surge. Know your risks, make a plan and keep your family safe.

### Resident Information Tool

Not sure where to get sandbags? Use the Lee County Resident Information Tool at [leegov.com](http://leegov.com) and enter your home address to find your local fire district.

### How to Stack Sandbags

Tip for flood protection: Stack sandbags like brickwork. Stagger each row so the joints do not line up and place a tarp underneath for extra water resistance. Small steps make a big difference.

### Disposing of Sandbags

After the storm, remember:

- Clean sand can be reused in your yard or garden.
- Empty bags (not sand) can go in the trash.
- Used sandbags can be taken to the Lee-Hendry Landfill.

Do not return them to fire stations or toss them in recycling bins.