Exmouth Town Council

# Flooding Advice and Sandbag Policy



## Flood warnings from the Environment Agency (EA)

The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for issuing flood warnings to the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, to the relevant local authorities and the general public.

There are three levels of Flood Warning, with Severe being the most serious. There is usually a particular risk of flooding in Exmouth when very high tides are combined with severe wind.



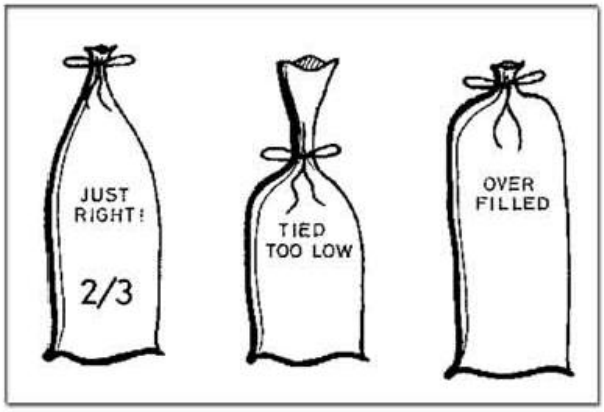

The public can call the EA Flood Line on 0845 988 1188 or visit the EA flood warning website Check for flooding in England - GOV.UK to obtain the latest situation for Exmouth. The Environment Agency also has national and regional Twitter accounts which provide timely and accurate information. The South West regional feed can be followed via @EnvAgencySW

## Sand Bags - how to get them and how to use them

If you are at risk of flooding, don't wait until it is too late to act. Exmouth Town Council has a supply of bags which can be collected from our Town Hall offices at 1 St Andrews Road, Exmouth during normal office hours (that's Monday to Thursday, between 9.00am and 5.00pm; Friday 9.00am-4.30pm). Exmouth Town Council's website also has contact details of those Councillors and organisation who can issue sand bags in an emergency Emergency Planning - Exmouth Town Council

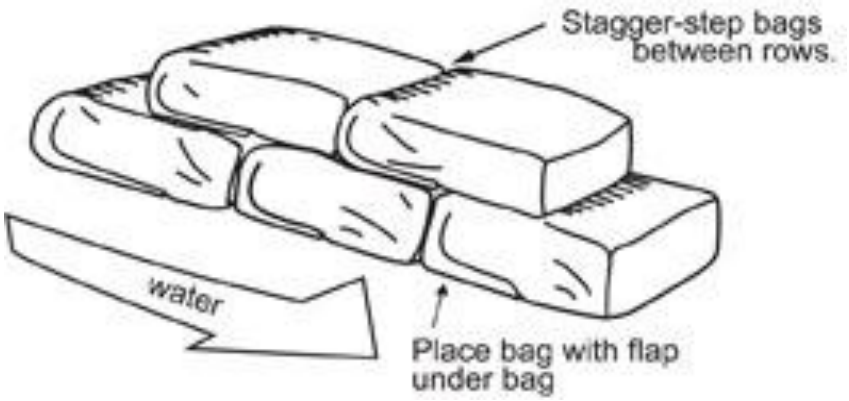
You will need to use your own builder's sand or you can collect sand which has overtopped onto the road along the sea front but *you must not take sand from the beach*. You can also fill sand bags with garden soil but make sure you stamp it down so there are no gaps. The important thing is that they get heavy really quickly, so don't overfill them! Then, you just tuck the open end under the bag. In anything other than a severe flood, a height of two sandbags is usually enough, overlapping like bricks in a wall, with a plastic sheet or bin bag laid on the ground underneath.

## FILLING SANDBAGS




In a serious flood, the door is not the only place the water will come in; you need to think about toilets, sinks, floorboards and airbricks as well. You don't necessarily need a sandbag for the sink; you just need something heavy to hold the plug in place, so it doesn't get pushed out. But you can also put a sandbag down your toilet (in the bowl itself) and that stops the water coming up.

There is significant flood protection guidance on the Environment Agency and National Flood Forum websites. Please visit the links provided at the bottom of this page for more information.




Be Flood Prepared: Respond and Recover Quicker - Environment Agency - Citizen Space

National Flood Forum – A charity to help, support and represent people at risk of flooding.

BeFloodReady – Property Flood Resilience (PFR) | Helping Reduce Flood Risk