

in: [Disaster Preparedness/Survival](#), [Manly Skills](#), [Survival](#)

Patrick Hutchison • September 11, 2018 Last updated: November 14, 2018

How to Make a Sandbag Wall



Sandbags are one of the most effective ways to deflect water when storms and heavy rains cause flooding. Arranging sandbags into a wall can direct the flow of water away from buildings, roads, or any sensitive structure that might be damaged by a deluge. Keep in mind that a sandbag wall is not completely waterproof. Make sure you have a strategy for dealing with any water that seeps in through cracks in the wall. Electric pumps are your best bet for handling additional water, but you can also bail extra water manually with buckets if necessary.

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shovels sand, the other person holds the bag open. If more people are available, they can take the filled sandbags and place them on the wall, or sub in for the person shoveling when they get tired.

Numbers to Consider

Before you get started on your wall, consider how many bags and how much sand you'll need, as well as how many people you have helping you. Without proper planning, you may begin building a wall that you ultimately can't finish because of a lack of sand, bags, or manpower. Here are some numbers to consider:

- 35-40 pounds – weight of a typical bag
- 60 bags – minimum number needed to build a wall that's a foot high and ten feet long
- 1 cubic yard – amount of sand it takes to fill 75 40-pound bags
- 3 minutes – time it takes for an average person to fill a sandbag

Wall Location

Never build your sandbag wall directly against a building where the force of water can drive the wall against the building and cause damage. Without a gap, you also don't have room to maneuver or add to the wall if water levels rise. A good rule of thumb is to leave at least eight feet between your wall and the nearest building.

How to Fill Sandbags



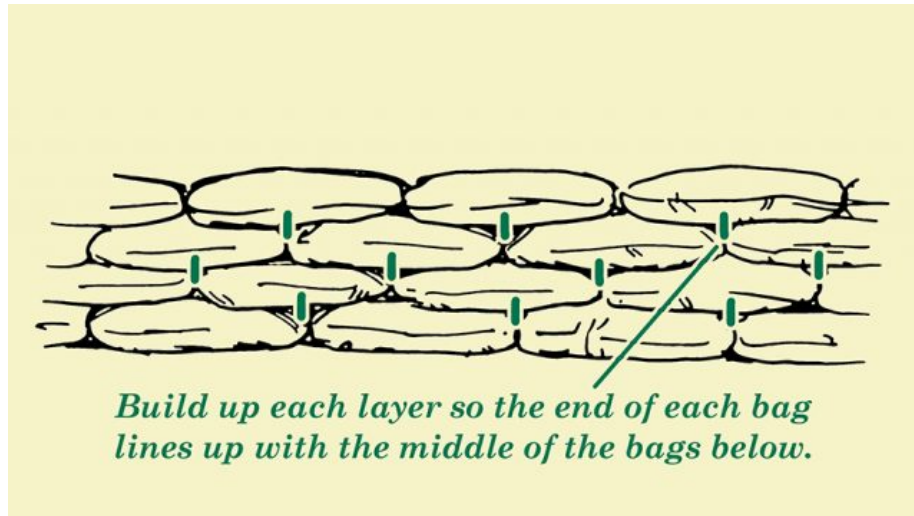
While one person crouches and holds the bag open, another person shovels sand into the bag. The person holding the bag should set the base of the bag on the ground, and roll back the open end to form a collar. Do not overfill the bags. Sandbags should be filled just over halfway. Overfilling makes them more difficult to carry and manipulate. After filling, close the bag by folding over the top of it.

Never tie bags shut. Tying bags wastes valuable time and prevents them from conforming to the shape of your wall.

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Lay a single line of bags end-to-end as long as you want your wall to be. With your first line of bags set, begin building your wall up by positioning another line of bags on top of the first. The second layer of bags should be offset from the first so that the end of each bag in the second layer lines up with the middle of the bags in the first layer.

A single stack of sandbags grows in height quickly but isn't very strong. That's why the Army Corps of Engineers recommends building sandbag walls that are three times wider than they are tall (or two times wider at bare minimum if lacking time/supplies). In other words, a one-foot high wall should have a three-foot-wide base, giving the wall a pyramid shape. You should always plan on building it at least one foot higher than the projected crest of the water.

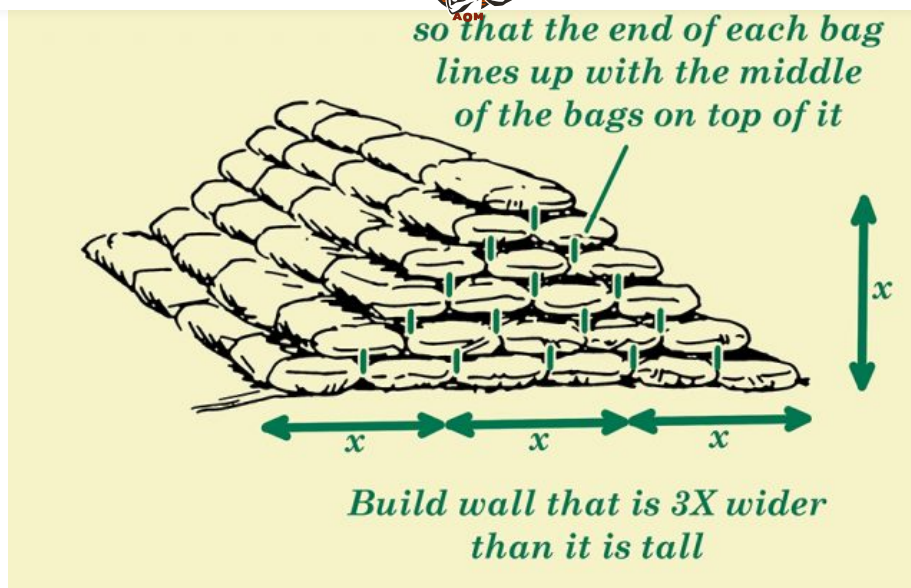
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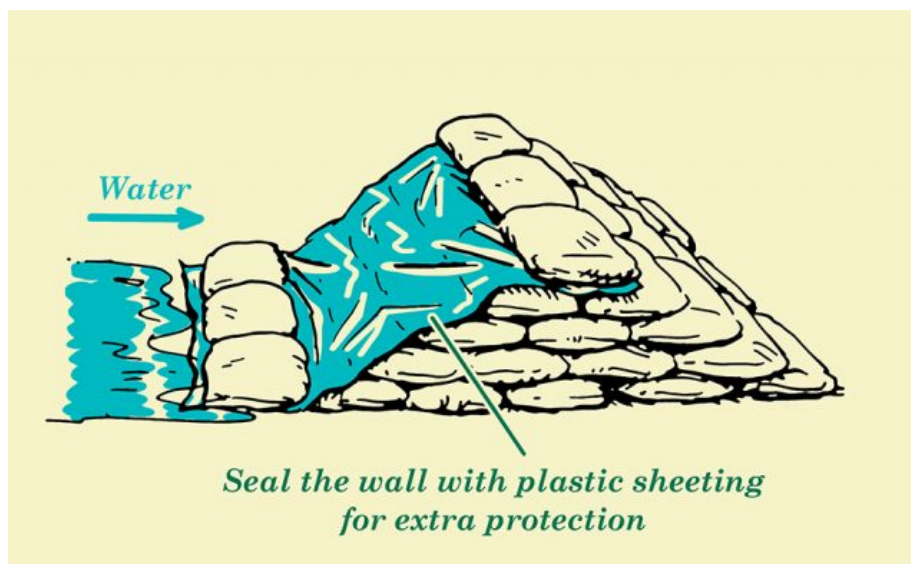
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To expand the base of your wall, place another line of bags adjacent to your first line at the base of your wall. As it is with successive layers, successive rows of bags should also be placed offset to the bags they sit on top of. Continue adding more rows and layers of bags until your wall is at the desired height.

Seal It Up at the End



Your completed wall can be sealed with plastic sheeting in order to improve its watertight capacity. To do this, lay down a bed of soil or sand 1 inch deep and 1 foot wide at the bottom of the wall on the water side. Lay plastic sheeting over the sandbag wall so that its edge meets the edge of your soil/sand layer. Next, place sandbags on the bottom of the plastic to form a good seal (again, this is along the water side). The top of the sheeting should go over the wall; use sandbags to hold down this top edge as well.

The sheeting should actually be fairly loose and not pulled super tight. This way, the water pressure of an oncoming flood will allow the plastic to easily conform to the sandbag wall. If the plastic is pulled too tightly, the pressure of the water can actually rip it (in that same vein, take care to not puncture the plastic yourself with shoes, knives, etc.).

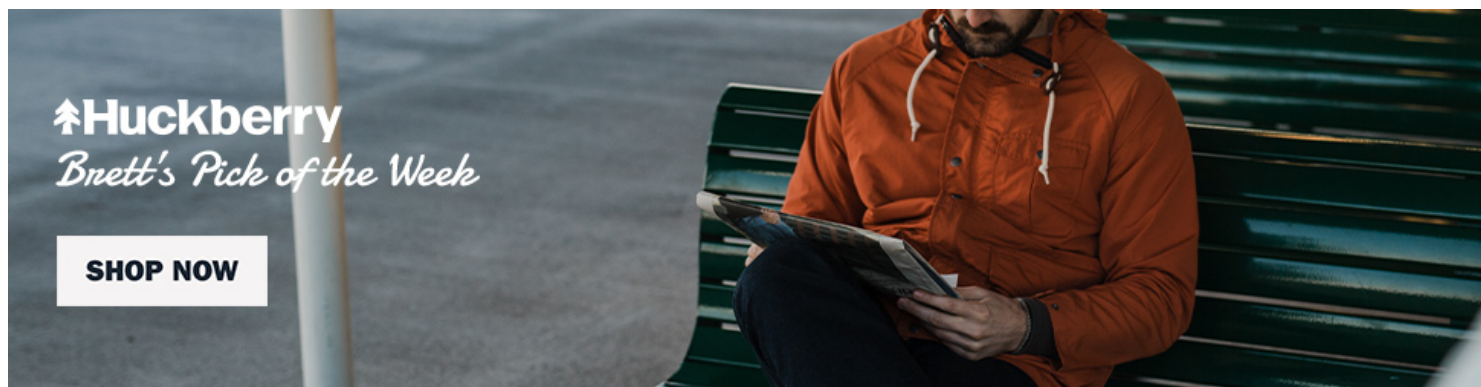




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in: *Giveaway*

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The Monthly Huckberry Giveaway: September 2018

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Dress Picks of the Month Giveaway



Below you'll find some of my favorite recent offerings from [Huckberry](#). Enter the giveaway to win any of these items, or anything else available in their store (up to a value of \$500).

My Picks This Month

1. Proof Strong Shirt. A hard-working button-up shirt that combines the softness of a washed chambray with the durability of workwear. Cut from a Japanese cordura chambray fabric featuring incredible durability and remarkable softness.

2. Iron and Resin Rambler. If your wardrobe needs a jacket with that special something, Iron and Resin's Rambler is the one to invest in. Stylish, and built from waxed canvas, it's a jacket that'll only get better with age, and is now available in an exclusive-to-Huckberry brown corduroy.

3. Black Diamond Backpack. The durability of Black Diamond's legendary rock climbing bags meets everyday wearability. Combining sleek and minimalist design, with commuter practicality, you'll be able to bring the bag anywhere you go.

4. Pendleton Chief Joseph Towel. Legendary Pendleton has put one of its oldest designs on an absorbent cotton towel. This design honors the heroism of Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph with a symbolic and eye-catching pattern.

5. Topo Designs Classic Duffel. Using the same style, materials, and quality construction as their famed backpacks, this duffel bag will stand up to the abuse of airport baggage handlers, cabbies, and whatever else you want to throw at it.

6. James Brand Elko Knife. Truly a *pocket* knife, the Elko's slim profile and lightweight design make it perfect for a keychain, lanyard, backpack, or, of course, your pocket.

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8. Rustico Writer's Log. Having a handsome notebook (and leather cover) to whip out when you need to write something down is a great excuse to *not* pull out your phone. And that's something we could all use more of. This refillable notebook is handmade right here in the USA.

9. Red Wing Chelsea Boot. Offers the crazy durability that Red Wing shoes are known for, with the stylish appeal of a casual suede boot. Slips quickly on and off so that even when you're rushing out the door, you'll look good while doing so.

10. Gola Track Suede. Easy-wearing, lightweight retro sneakers made in the UK and backed by 100 years of shoemaking experience. The suede exterior gives it a bit more moxie than your average sneaker.

The Prize

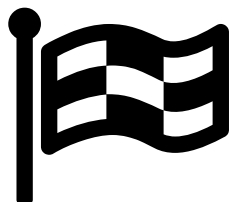
Any item currently available on [Huckberry](#) (up to a value of \$500). Be sure to check out the current line-up of items as it changes every week.

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If you are an email subscriber, do not reply to this email to make your entry. You must click on the title of this post, which will take you to the post on our web page where you can make your entry. Use the form below to enter. Don't forget that you have multiple ways to enter! The more of them you do, the better your chances are!

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Deadline to enter is Monday, September 17th, at 11:59pm CT. We'll then select one random winner. Good luck!



