

Flood Control

Flood waters rises rapidly, and most often are unexpected. Barriers must be in place before the waters rise to prevent damage and are best placed to divert water away from vulnerable property. Be prepared or be sorry!

Sand bags, the traditional protection method, are slow and labor intensive to deploy. They are free (fill them yourself) during flood season. See www.cityofsanrafael.org/prepare-for-winter/ for locations. Visit [CA Dept. of Water Resources](#) for filling and placement instructions.

If you want your own neighborhood supply, the cost for local delivery is about \$415 for a 7 ton truckload of sand. Sand bags are available on Amazon.com for \$40 per 100 (50# capacity and about 1 yr. of UV life).

Alternatives:

Sandless sandbags are light and easy to store, expand to 6" in height when exposed to water and can be placed/stacked like traditional sandbags. Cost is \$7.50 to \$8.50 per linear ft. – see [FloodSax](#)

Ground bladders are an alternative to sand bags, quick to deploy and reusable. Position to protect a structure or drainage channel, and fill with water. Cost ranges from \$2.91 to \$28.75 per linear ft., depending on the length and height of the barrier. These are some suppliers:

[AIRE Industrial](#)

[Climacover](#)

[Watershed Innovations](#)

Plastic freestanding barriers provide protection in feet rather than inches. Various designs are available with the flexibility for angles and access points with costs ranging from \$42 to \$1,000 per linear ft. depending on height and length. Some suppliers:

[NOAQ Boxwall and NOAQ Tubewall](#) available at [Flood Defense Group](#)

[Diluvium](#) available at [Floodproofing.com](#)

Plywood can provide inexpensive structural protection from the weight of high water and/or mud and debris flow.

Heavy plastic sheeting and duct tape are inexpensive, and often essential supplemental protection, whatever your choice of water barrier.