

Sandbags – Making the right choice



Sackmaker J&HM Dickson Ltd began life in 1915 making Jute sandbags during WW1.



We now supply local authorities, flood defence engineers, road traffic management companies, Fire Brigades, builder's merchants, civil engineers and many more across the UK. We have even supplied sandbags to the Kuwaiti Military & have over 100 years experience helping customers make the right decisions when deciding which type to buy.

Sackmaker supply different qualities of sandbags to suit all applications, whether it's fast deployment flood sandbags or simply sandbags for weighing down road signs, we can supply both **unfilled or pre filled** sandbags to do the job.



Types of Sandbag

Woven Polypropylene (WPP) sandbags have been around for many years & often seen as a cheaper alternative to traditional hessian material. WPP sandbags have different qualities and being made from 100% recyclable woven plastic which doesn't rot, are more suitable for longer term sand bag applications in wet environments such as flood protection, ballasting, river damming or diversion. Sackmaker supply two different qualities of WPP sandbags depending on the application required, both are UV protected against sunlight & our Heavy Duty Reusable sandbags last at least 2 years.

Standard White Sandbags



The most economical sandbag on the market made from lightweight 70gsm WPP fabric. Used for one off applications such as weighing down road signs or to stop tarpaulins blowing away, they can also be used for temporary flood defence.

Heavy Duty WPP Sandbags



These are our most popular sandbags made from heavier 120gsm fabric containing a large amount of Ultra violet Inhibitor which helps prevent the material breaking down in sunlight. The combination of heavy woven fabric and UV protection means this sandbag lasts much longer, has higher abrasion resistance & will withstand rougher handling. Supplied in brown to blend in with the environment or black which is even more resistant to sunlight we designed these bags to be reused over at least 2 years & still be 100% recyclable.

Hessian / Jute Sandbags



Up until the 1970's all our sandbags were made from traditional Hessian / Jute material & we still supply them to this day either empty or pre-filled.

This type of sandbag is made from a natural bio degradable material which will last 4 to 6 weeks before slowly breaking down & is great for use in environmentally sensitive areas or around inquisitive livestock!

They are also used for military applications, shooting ranges and creating bunkers for outdoor activities such as paintballing & archery.



Hessian Sandbags eventually rot away so are ideal to fill with sand /cement mix and leave to form a wall or fill with soil & seeds to create "living roofs" and other structures.

Due to their relatively short lifespan, our Hessian Sandbags are filled to order & we recommend using them within 4 to 6 weeks.

We can also supply heavy duty Hessian or fully treated / rot-proofed Sandbags to order.

Sackmakers Granite Sand filled Sandbags – Tried & Tested - Reusable & Recyclable

We pay more for it - so it's important to distinguish the benefits of putting 14 kilos of **Washed Granite Sand** in our Sandbags & the advantages over other filling materials.



This special small aggregate is typically used for laying monoblock driveways & the large rough particle size is **super stable** - excellent for building Sandbag walls & barriers.

It also doesn't become waterlogged & only increases in weight by approx 10% underwater allowing our Sandbags drain to their original 14kg weight within 2 hours – this means they don't retain flood water or its contaminants & are easy to remove after use. Our outer bags are 100% recyclable & Granite Sand can be reused as landscaping product or soil improver.

Why not consider saving money & helping the Environment by using our Heavy Duty WPP outer bags filled with Granite sand & reusing them a few times before recycling?

UV Protection in Woven PP Sandbags

All plastic materials gradually break down when exposed to sunlight and Woven Polypropylene is no exception.

WPP sacks with no UVI (Ultra Violet Inhibitor) may only last a few weeks if left outside unprotected.

Unfortunately unprotected fabric looks the same as fabric with UVI so it's important buyers of WPP sacks & sandbags ensure the bags they buy are fit for purpose, especially if they appear cheaper than the rest!

Lifespan not only depends on the intensity of sunlight but also the effects of "weather stripping" it's subjected to.

Wind & rain accelerates the process of degradation so the heavier the quality of fabric, the longer they will last.

Variable amounts of UV & weather exposure mean predicting Sandbag longevity is not an exact science, so we field test ours in real applications. As a rough UK guide our Standard White WPP Sandbags last around 6 months while heavy duty Reusable Sandbags take around 2 years before starting to break down.



Building Sandbag Walls & Barriers



Sackmaker fill our sandbags with approximately 14 kilos of washed Granite Sand.

Although it's possible to pack up to 20kgs in a sandbag, the more it's filled the harder it is to build into a strong water resistant flood wall, so we recommend they are only filled two thirds before tying. The quality of the sand used is very important & sandbags will not work to their maximum potential if filled with earth or cheap sand which is unstable & has a high content of fines which retain lots of water i.e. builders sand.

Because our Granite sand sandbags **only increase in weight by around 10% when wet & drain out within 2 hours**, they maintain a weight of around 14kgs, making them easy to manually handle & redeploy. They also work just as well in salt water as fresh water.

Sandhoppers, Bulk Bags of Sand & Polythene Liners



Sackmaker supply **Sandhopper** Sandbag filling machines.

We also carry **Bulk Tonne Bags** in stock in various sizes, supplied either empty or pre filled with Granite sand plus **Heavy Duty Polythene liners** to use in conjunction with sandbags to form a moisture barrier e.g. between a sandbag wall & door.

Sandbag Delivery – Fast Response



Sackmaker have sandbags in stock for immediate despatch & deliver Mon to Fri during normal working hours. We understand the urgent nature of some requirements & happy to discuss special arrangements for same day, out of hours delivery or uplift for bulk orders.

Filled sandbags are delivered on pallets of 70 & we ask customers to ensure they have sufficient logistics in place to promptly unload filled sandbags from trucks at the roadside.

We can arrange delivery to Motorways & roadworks using trucks with warning lights.

Sandbags can also be uplifted directly from our factory in Glasgow G73 1RW.

Contact Us

For further advice, samples or a quotation then please visit www.sandbags.org.uk or contact our experienced sales team on **0800 032 6447**



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Sackmaker are an ISO 9001 accredited Company

