

Sandbags – Making the right choice



Sackmaker J&HM Dickson Ltd was established in 1915 to make hessian jute sandbags for the war effort and still supply them to this day. We supply local authorities, Fire Brigades, builder's merchants, civil engineers and road traffic management companies across the UK. We have even supplied sandbags to the Kuwaiti Military and have nearly 100 years experience to help customers make the right decisions when deciding which type to buy.

Dickson's 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 filled or unfilled sacks to do the job.

Unfilled sandbags are 33x79cm long and come with a tie string near the mouth – bundled flat in 100's (minimum quantity) and bales of 1000 sacks.

Filled sandbags are held in stock for immediate delivery & contain around 15 kilos of locally sourced quality Granite Sand which has a large particle size & the fines removed so it keeps water at bay but doesn't wash out of the bag. Filled sand bags are approximately 28x50cm long and around 8cm thick – they come supplied on pallets.

We can make special sized sandbags to order.

Types of Sandbag



Hessian / Jute Sandbags Up until the 1970's all our sandbags were made from hessian or jute material and we still supply hessian sand bags to this day. This type of sandbag is primarily used to make walls and for flood defence as well as being used for military applications, ballast bags and creating bunkers for outdoor activities such as paintballing, archery and shooting. Hessian sandbags are biodegradable and will eventually rot away so are ideal to fill with a sand & cement mix and leave to form a wall.



Woven Polypropylene (WPP) sandbags have been around for many years and often seen as a cheaper alternative to traditional hessian material. WPP sandbags have different qualities and are made from woven plastic which doesn't rot, they are therefore more suitable for longer term sand bag applications in wet environments such as river damming or diversion. Sackmaker supply two different qualities of WPP sandbags depending on the application required, both are UV protected against sunlight damage but Heavy Duty last longer:



Standard White Sandbags the cheapest sandbags 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 Sandbags our most popular sandbag made from heavier 100gsm fabric containing a large amount of UVI (Ultra violet Inhibitor) which helps prevent the material breaking down in sunlight. This 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 material to blend in with the environment.

Quality Matters

UV Protection 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 very important that buyers of WPP sacks & sandbags ensure that the bags they buy are fit for purpose, especially if they appear cheaper than the rest! The longevity of the material depends on the intensity of sunlight and the effects of weather stripping it is subjected to. Wind & rain accelerates the process of degradation so the more sandbags are covered from the elements the longer they will last. ALL the WPP sandbags Sackmaker supply are UV protected and our heavier fabrics take longer to break down. We can supply black material to cover them.

Building Sandbags Sackmaker fill sandbags with approximately 15kilos of quality granite sand, although it's possible to pack about 20kgs in a sand bag 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 also important and sandbags will not work to their maximum potential if filled with sand which has a high content of fines & can therefore retain lots of water i.e. builders sand. Maintaining a weight of 15kilos per sandbag also makes them easier to manually handle, especially in wet or hazardous conditions. We can also supply Heavy Duty Polythene liners to use in conjunction with sandbags to form a moisture barrier e.g. between a sandbag wall & a door.

Delivery Sackmaker always have sand bags in stock for immediate despatch and deliver Monday to Friday during normal working hours unless by special arrangement. Filled sandbags are delivered on pallets and we ask all our customers to ensure they have sufficient logistics in place to promptly unload filled sandbags from our truck at the roadside on arrival. Sandbags can also be uplifted from our factory in Glasgow G73 1RW.

If you require 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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