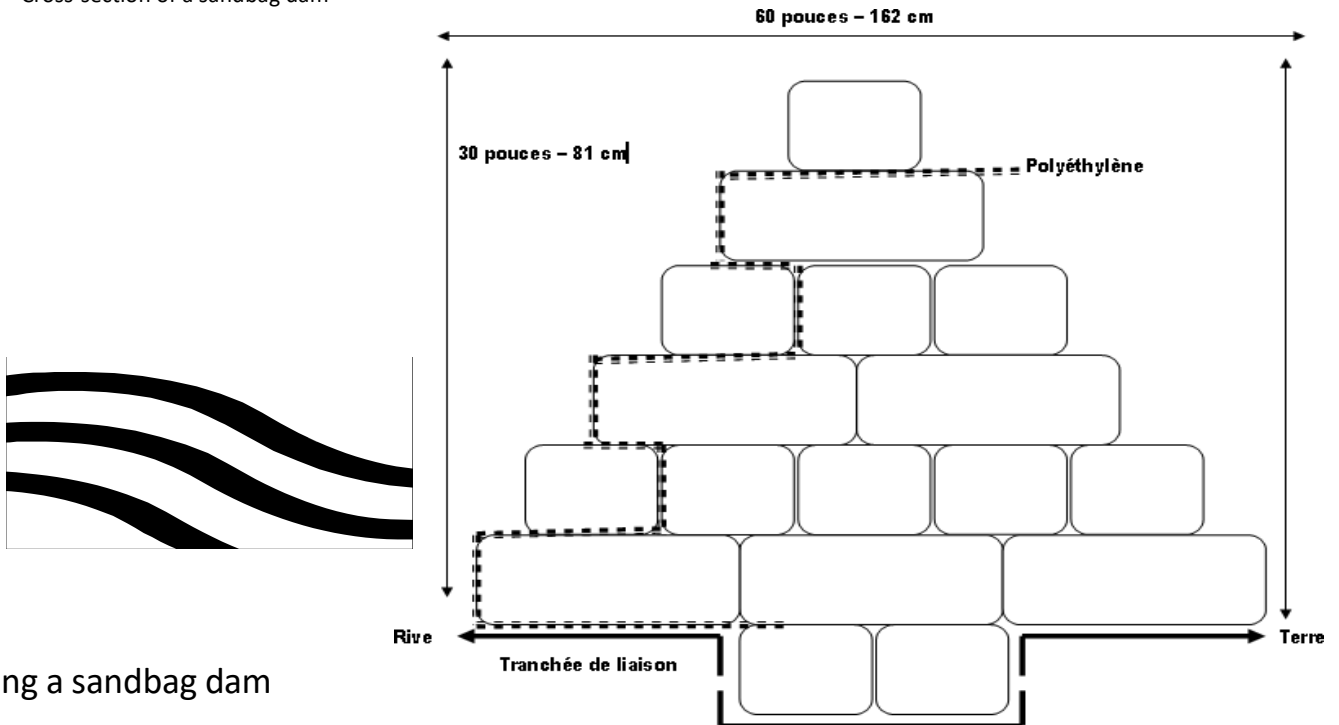




Protection against flooding

Cross-section of a sandbag dam



Installing a sandbag dam

Sandbags stacked to form a flood barrier are a good way to protect against flooding in an emergency.

- Place the sandbags in the first row perpendicular to the axis of the wall or bank. If possible, place them on firm ground rather than ice or snow. To help hold the dam in place against water pressure, it is still best to dig a trench and use it as a foundation, as shown in the diagram above.
- The bags should not be completely full. In this way, they fit the shape of the neighbouring bags and are better able to stay in place.
- Each row should be placed at right angles to the row below and the row below. This alternating arrangement increases the stability of the structure.
- Finally, it is recommended that a flexible polyethylene membrane be inserted between the bags exposed to water to prevent water seepage. To be effective, this membrane should be placed from the ground to the second to last row, forming successive "S"s as suggested in the diagram above.