

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the bags re-useable?

Our experience to date shows that in summer months, the bags will start to evaporate on warm days and will plump back up on rainy days. The bags will re-inflate in nearly all cases. They are able to be refreshed with fresh water and will usually inflate to approximately 80 % of their original weight. However, as there are so many anomalies such as what the flood water has been contaminated with, and the weather conditions which can affect this process: due to this we can't guarantee re-inflation on every occasion.

How do we dispose of them?

The **AQUA-SAC®** S.O.S. *Bag* contains three components: a jute sack, a non-woven inner bag, and a water retaining substance. None of these components are considered toxic to the environment.

The bags are non-hazardous waste suitable for disposal in an approved solid waste landfill or incineration plant, in accordance with local regulations.

Therefore, unused (dry) and used (wet) S.O.S. *Bags* can be sent to landfill or incineration. Another possibility for disposal of limited numbers of **AQUA-SAC®** S.O.S. *Bags* is so-called *greening*, whereby bags are buried under a tree during planting to provide a water reservoir. If greening is impractical, bags may be cut open to remove the SAP, which can be dug into soil to improve moisture retention.

Do you have to inflate the bags before building the wall or dam?

Yes, you do have to inflate the bags first to create a dam wall if you are using them to hold back water (as you would with normal sandbags). The bags do not have to be completely inflated as when flood water comes into contact with the barrier they will continue to inflate and form a tighter seal.

How much water does the bag hold?

13 litres and therefore weighing around 13kg: substantially less than a traditional sandbag. We keep the aqua-sac at this weight so it is under 15kg which is the HSE requirement for a single lift.

Can I use in sea water?

The **AQUA-SAC®** S.O.S. bag is for use in fresh water. This means that they can only be **inflated** in fresh water.

This, however, does not mean that they cannot be used in areas where sea water is the threat. It just means that they cannot be inflated with sea water.

The sea water over a period of time would start to cause the bags to deflate. However, when an ingress is suspected from the sea it is usually connected with a 12-hour tidal surge, which will come and then go. In this circumstance the bags will behave the same as with freshwater flooding. If the threat continues over a long period of time, and the bags do start to deflate, they can be refreshed with fresh water during the period of low tide.