

DEC GUIDANCE FOR SAND BAG USE

SANDBAG PLACEMENT

- Sandbags must be filled with clean sand. Other fill materials such as gravel, concrete, or cement is not permitted.
- Sandbags should never be used to protect against wave-based erosion of bluffs, beaches, or dune systems. Sandbags, which weigh approximately 30 pounds, are too light and will not stay in place during periods of high water and storm events. Wave action will cause the bags to be dislodged and pulled into the lake.
- Sandbag use near the shoreline must be placed landward of the limit of normal wave run-up to prevent the bags from being dislodged into the lake.
- Short-term alternatives to sand bags that may be used to protect against wave-based erosion include the use of larger (cubic yard or larger) sand bags (i.e. trap bags, sand cubes, big bags, etc.).
- Bags must be filled using offsite sand. Sand must not be excavated or pumped from the beach or nearshore.
- **The installation of short-term or long-term erosion protection requires permits from DEC.**

COLLECTION, STORAGE, AND DISPOSAL

- DEC encourages that the sand bags be collected for re-use to the extent it can be reasonably accomplished (given limitations of location, health of homeowners, availability of labor, etc.).
- Sandbags which have contacted floodwater and are contaminated with raw sewage, industrial chemicals, petroleum products, etc. must be disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill. DEC would consider the use of sand from the sandbags as an alternative daily cover if requested by the landfill.
- Sandbags which have not come into contact with contaminated floodwater can be stored for reuse or can be debagged; the uncontaminated sand can be used as fill or aggregate in upland areas, and the bags can be stored for reuse or disposed at a municipal solid waste landfill. Placement of uncontaminated sand on Lake shorelines areas is acceptable, but placement in or alongside streams, tributaries, wetlands, or environmentally sensitive areas is restricted.