



# USING YOUR FLOOD POD

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME  
AND GET HELP IN AN EMERGENCY



## What is a flood pod?

Fife Council has provided a helping hand to communities that have been devastated by flooding by installing a number of FloodPods close to affected properties. This leaflet tells you how to use your FloodPod, along with some other useful guidance on how to protect your property in a flooding emergency.

FloodPods are large dark grey steel containers which are full of flood sacks, a new type of lightweight 'sandbag', which can protect your home from flood water and which are easily disposed of once the flooding event has occurred.

FloodPods are located on pavements or on council land. They will be locked with a combination padlock, accessible to affected properties in each local area and a nominated member of the Community Council.

FloodPods can be accessed 24 hours a day by entering the PIN code into the combination lock.

**FloodPod PIN code: 1996**

It is important that you do not remove contents of the FloodPod out with the immediate run up to a flood event as, if contents are removed too early, it may result in insufficient flood sacks being available in the event of an emergency.

There is also a special email address set up for residents to use if the FloodPod needs to be restocked with flood sacks in between our routine inspections.

If the FloodPod needs to be replenished, please email [floodpods@fife.gov.uk](mailto:floodpods@fife.gov.uk) stating its location.


## Where is my nearest pod?

You can find your nearest FloodPod by emailing [floodpods@fife.gov.uk](mailto:floodpods@fife.gov.uk)

Further FloodPods are being installed, and redundant FloodPods in areas that have been subject to other flood mitigation works may be relocated to other more at risk areas.

## Using the flood pod

Following an amber or red flood warning being issued from SEPA, and if you are at risk of flooding, go to your FloodPod, enter the PIN code into the combination lock, and retrieve flood sacks (blue) and 'snakes' (red) required to protect your property. Please remember that other properties may also require equipment so only take what you need. When contacted, Fife Council will be on site as soon as possible with additional traditional sandbags.





*Flood sacks*  
(Photo Courtesy of SFF)



*Flood snakes*  
(Photo Courtesy of SFF)

## Using the flood sacks

Flood sacks are similar to traditional sandbags but contain a special super-absorbent polymer which absorbs water to form an effective barrier. Flood 'snakes' are simply three flood sacks joined together.

Sacks can be activated by either hosing them or immersing them in water for a few minutes to allow water to be absorbed. You can then mould them to fit the location where they are to be used either across external doors or airbrick openings. They can be stacked on top of each other up to a height of 30-40cm.

Once activated, they can be re-used for up to three months before being disposed of.

## Disposing of used sacks

Simply slit the sack and drain the contents into the garden, putting the outer sack into your refuse bin. The super-absorbent polymer inside the sack is environmentally friendly and does not absorb toxins in flood water, so will not harm your garden, wildlife or pets.

## Preparing in advance

The most important issue facing anyone at risk of flooding, or who has already suffered an incident, is how to make your property flood resilient.

Contact the **Scottish Flood Forum** ([www.scottishfloodforum.org](http://www.scottishfloodforum.org)) to organise a survey of your property, which will identify the most appropriate type of flood protection products for you.

## Flood protection products

There are many British Standards Institution (BSI) approved flood resilience products, in addition to flood sacks, on the market designed to act as temporary protection against flood water entering your property. These act as barriers to water entry points, such as doors, windows and airbricks.

- Flood boards are made of plastic or metal and can be installed across a doorway or window before a flood arrives. The boards usually slide into a frame that has been attached to the door or window frame to provide a watertight seal.
- Airbrick covers are fitted over airbricks on exterior walls to prevent water entering the property.
- Flood skirts are a more advanced system of flood protection, which totally encloses the bottom 600-900mm (2-3 feet) of a property in water-resistant sheeting, sometimes to foundation level. A more expensive solution, this may be useful for detached properties that are flooded regularly for sustained periods.

Fife Council and the Scottish Flood Forum do not endorse any individual product or company and take no responsibility for any issues arising as a result of their purchase or use.



*Air Brick Cover*

*Door Barriers*

# The Scottish Flood Forum

The Scottish Flood Forum is a Scottish-based organisation funded by the Scottish Government which supports and represents people affected by or who are at risk of flooding.

Fife Council is working in partnership with the Scottish Flood Forum to deliver the flood pods. If you would like a flood protection guide or a free property survey, please contact:

Scottish Flood Forum

0131 563 9392

[www.scottishfloodforum.org](http://www.scottishfloodforum.org)





## Who does what in a flood?

Many public organisations work together to predict and assist in protecting you from river and coastal flooding

Householders are responsible for protecting their home from flooding.

You should be fully prepared by:

- Making sure your building is fully insured
- Considering installing flood protection products (often a requirement of insurance companies)
- Having a family or business flood plan in place to protect your property and belongings
- Registering to receive free SEPA flood warning messages. Go to **[www.floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup/](http://www.floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup/)** or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

### Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA):

- Monitors rivers and coastal waters to predict the likelihood of flooding
- Issues flood risk messages and offers flood preparation advice
- Provides information on areas at risk of river and coastal flooding
- Helps local authorities identify sustainable actions to manage flooding

## **Scottish Water:**

- Manages public water and waste water networks, including assessing risks of surface and sewer flooding
- Minimises the risk of sewer flooding
- Undertakes reservoir maintenance.
- Works with in partnership with organisations to reduce the impact of floods and to create surface water management plans

## **Police Scotland:**

- Co-ordinates emergency services
- Controls road traffic
- Responsible for saving lives, evacuation and public information

## **Fife Council**

- Inspects water courses on non-agricultural land
- Maintains road drainage
- Manages existing flood defences and provides sand bags for flood defences
- Plans flood defence schemes in accordance with Scottish Government policy, e.g Dunfermline Flood Prevention Scheme, Kirkcaldy Sea Wall
- Works with emergency services in response to severe flooding
- Co-ordinates shelter for people who are evacuated

## Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:

- Saves lives in the event of serious flooding which is likely to cause one or more individuals to die, be seriously injured or become seriously ill

## Transport Scotland:

- Maintains road drainage on the trunk road network (A876,A90/M90, A92, A977,A985 routes through Fife)
- Manages trunk road closures as required

## Scottish Government:

- Responsible for overall flooding policy
- Funds SEPA's flood warning services

## Scottish Flood Forum:

- Offers support and advice on flood protection, insurance, recovery, advice on establishing community flood groups and business continuity planning



*Flooding in Freuchie, 2008*

# FOR INFORMATION DURING A FLOOD



[www.fife.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.fife.gov.uk/flooding)



[facebook.com/fifecouncil](https://facebook.com/fifecouncil)  
[twitter.com/fifecouncil](https://twitter.com/fifecouncil)



**Kingdom FM** - 95.2 & 96.1  
**Forth One** - 97.3  
**Tay FM** - 96.4 & 102.8



**03451 55 11 99** automated update  
**03451 55 00 11** faults & repairs  
**03451 55 00 99** out of hours

## For flood warnings

SEPA Floodline 0345 988 11 88 / [www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/floodline/](http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/floodline/)

## For a property flood survey

Scottish Flood Forum 0131 563 9392 / [www.scottishfloodforum.org](http://www.scottishfloodforum.org)

## To refill your flood pod

03451 550011      [floodpods@fife.gov.uk](mailto:floodpods@fife.gov.uk)