



POLYETHYLENE SHEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Another source of protection for the structure of your home and most other smaller buildings during severe flooding conditions is the proper use of polyethylene (plastic) sheeting. The following is a brief description of how, according to dyking engineers, an individual can provide protection to his or her home should **potential flooding conditions be considered severe enough to require evacuation.**

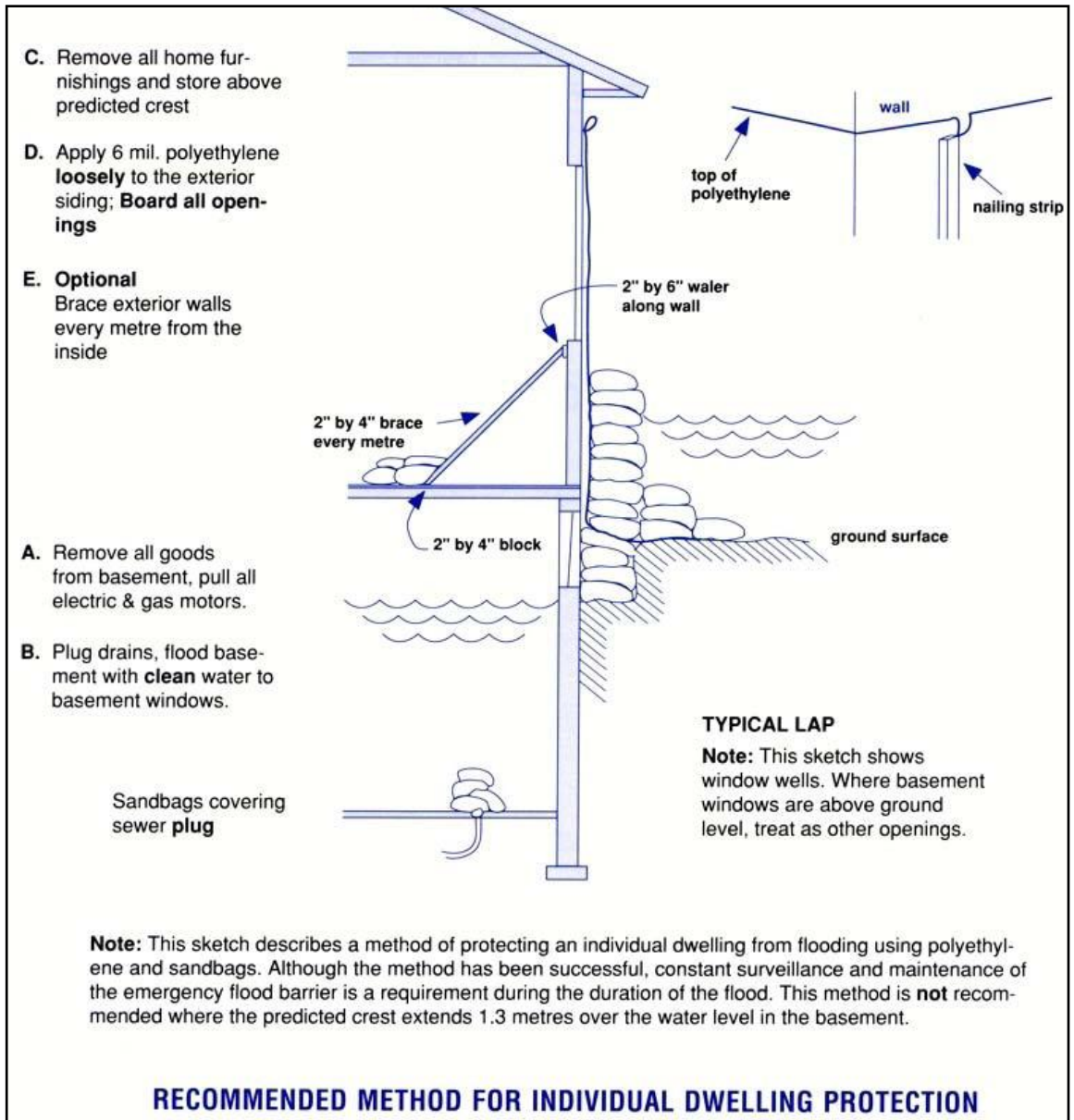
This system has been successfully used throughout Canada and the United States, and is recommended for structures located in areas where flooding depth is anticipated to extend **above the level of the structure's first floor.** It is **not considered necessary in areas where only basement flooding is expected.** Polyethylene sheeting is intended to add extra protection to the building's structure, but "sheeted" buildings are not considered suitable to live in once the sheeting has been completed. Use this procedure **only if evacuation is anticipated.**

Procedure

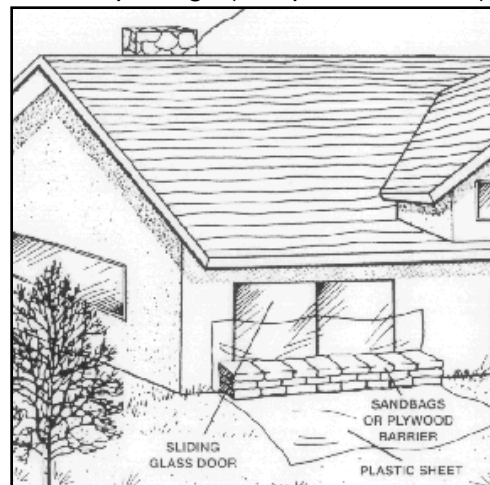
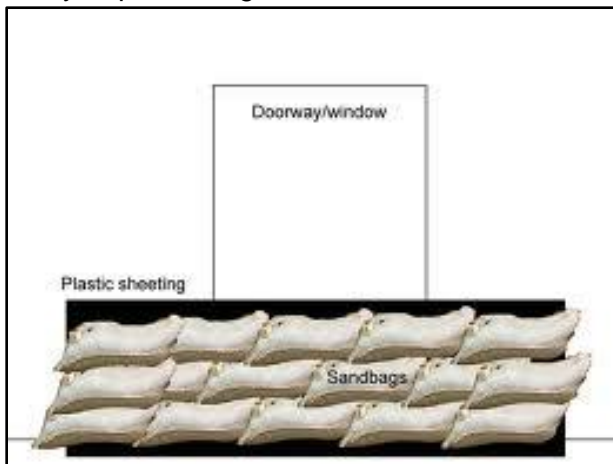
The exterior lower levels of a home to be evacuated are wrapped in polyethylene sheeting, secured at joints with nailed strips of wood and anchored around the structure's foundation with sandbags or other heavy objects. For greatest protection, the use of 6-mil polyethylene sheets in 3 metre widths is recommended.

Step-by-Step Instructions: Should your home or other structures be located in an area where flooding **above first floor level** is forecast, you may wish to do the following:

1. Listen to the forecast and determine how high the flooding level will be; allow an extra metre of coverage beyond that height.
2. All valuables, possessions and electric motors removed from appliances (that will stay in basement) should be removed from basement. Turn off & disconnect all power/gas lines.
3. Securely plug all basement drains and outlets such as: sewer drains, sinks, toilet bowls and laundry outlets to the sewer. It may be necessary to plug some outlets below the level of the weeping tile drains, in the primary sewer trap. Effective plugs can be made from wood or plastic bags. All plugs must be held in place by sandbags or other heavy materials, or held in place by braces securely fastened to floor joists.
4. Move all possessions within the structure above the projected flood water level.
5. Flood the basement with clear water from an outside tap through a basement window. Bring water level inside the basement to window casement level.
6. Board up all windows, doors and other openings.
7. For additional protection against the force of outside flooding waters, brace the walls of the structure from the inside by nailing "two-by-six" lengths or planking one metre above the floor. Once the two-by-six "walers" are in place, add braces constructed from strips of two-by-fours, running at a 45 degree angle from the "walers" to the floor and hold in place with either sandbags, or wooden blocks nailed directly to the floor.
8. Apply the polyethylene barrier loosely to the exterior walls of the structure, starting at a height of one meter above the predicted flooding level. Allow an additional one metre at the base of the structure for anchoring. At joints in the sheeting, allow a minimum one metre overlap. Place sandbags around the house against the polyethylene. Stack the bags in an overlapping fashion and at least 10 bags high.
9. At the base of the 1st stack of sandbags lift the remaining polyethylene sheeting up & cover the outside face of the initial sandbags, hold the plastic sheeting in place with a 2nd wall of sandbags.



Placing plastic sheeting can also be used against openings, before sandbagging doors & windows as an effective way of preventing mud and debris from entering through these openings (see pictures below).



The information in this brochure — intended for use by individuals should their home be threatened by a flooding situation — represents general tips for consideration and is provided to help residents of the R.M. be better prepared to deal with the perils of flooding. Responsibility for interpretation of the contents of this brochure rests with the user. This information is provided solely for the user's information and, while thought to be accurate, is provided strictly as is and without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The Rural Municipality of Corman Park hereby disclaims any liability or responsibility for any injury or damage resulting from the use, directly or indirectly, of the information contained herein.