

# Reusing Sand

Ideas for reusing sand and recovering resources around the house



When mixed with the soil or spread over land, clean or flood impacted sand can help amend clay rich soil, increasing porosity. Try using it on flowerbeds and yards.



Sand mixed with compost and soil improves drainage in container pots.



Sand-based patios are simple to build and use a large volume of sand under and between pavers/bricks.



The Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency will donate compost to any flood impacted resident for use in yards and gardens.



Sand can be added to latex paint cans to dry them out. It can also be used in place of oil-dry and kitty litter to absorb oil leaks. Keep some in your garage.



Kept in a bucket close to the firepit, sand can be used to put out fires. It can also be placed in metal buckets or glass jars for creating patio candles.



Have kids? Use non-impacted sand to build a sandbox for playtime. Create a "digger" zone for use with construction toys.



Use sand for weighing down a pickup for winter driving traction or for ice mitigation along sidewalks and driveways.



DO NOT place sand or filled sandbags into curbside carts. Truck collection arms and curbside garbage carts are not designed for the weight.



Emptied sandbags are not recyclable and not recommended for reuse. Empty sandbags should be placed in your regular garbage.



Flood impacted sand may contain contaminants and pathogens and should not be used for play areas or vegetable gardens. However, when spread out and allowed to "bake" in the sun, health risks are minimized, according to the DNR, and may be used in other ways.



The Solid Waste Agency will accept sandbags for disposal at regular garbage disposal rates.



Have a creative idea for reusing sand? Post to our Facebook page or send us a Tweet and join the conversation.



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