

## **Sand and Sandbag Disposal**

Cities and counties may want to consider stockpiling the sand from sandbags that have been impacted by floodwater. If the sand can be removed from the bags economically and effectively, the sand could be used next winter to sand streets, on gravel road surfaces, or spread on agricultural land or public ground,. It could also be returned to the sand company to be reused,

Bags still filled with sand should not be disposed of as rubble (e.g., in a ravine), but can be used for fill material under buildings, roads, parking lots, and so forth. Bags of sand may also be used for daily cover in a landfill.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources does not recommend that sand used in flood control be used in sand boxes, on beaches or in school yards. However, it would be acceptable to reuse the sand for residents to spread on a backyard flower garden or use in some other limited access area. Empty sandbags can be landfilled and should not be reused.

*Disposal for a small number of sand bags on commercial property or in the yards of residents:*

At residences, sand from sand bags can be used as fill material, such as on gravel streets and alleys, parking lots, and eroded areas in ditches and low-lying areas. When sand bag material has been spread out on the ground, allowed to dry and exposed to sunlight, it poses only a small public health risk relative to the existence of disease organisms.