

Flood Bags & Barriers

Quick Dams, what are they and how do they work?

Quick Dams contain a super absorbent polymer (similar to what's inside baby diapers) that react and swell on contact with water. Once activated (typically 10 minutes), the water is contained as a gel within the fabric, thus acting as a barrier.

How do you activate them?

Lay them in position and wait for the rain, spray with a hose, dunk them in a bucket of water, lay them in a puddle or place them in a fresh water source like a stream.

Do I have to add water?

Depending on your situation, you may pre-activate them or let the weather activate them. Quick Dams can be placed in position and wait for water to arrive. If a current of water is expected, partially activating them is recommended so that they don't float away. If building a retaining wall is desired, pre-soaking & stacking them is recommended.

Do Quick Dams or any other water activated sandbags work with salt water applications?

No, Quick Dams do not work with salt water, calcium, lime or chlorine. There is a chemical reaction that causes the absorbed water to be released back out, making them not effective as a barrier & must be thrown away.

How should I position Quick Dam Flood Barriers?

Flood Barriers contain a wedge to prevent them from rolling. When laying in position, be sure to place the "mini channel" away from flooding water. This will assure that as it grows, it acts as a wedge to secure in position. Ideally, place Quick Dams outdoors in the path of problem water & divert it, before it becomes a problem. They can also be used to absorb & contain a leak or spill.

Can these be used for Oil & Chemicals?

Quick Dams should be pre-activated with water to create a barrier & then they can be used to control other fluids. They will not activate without the presence of water.

I noticed some white crystals on the outside of the product after I activated it. Is that normal?

Yes, this is normal. During our manufacturing process the needles can pull the powder through the stitched seam, which will cause crystals to appear the first time you activate the product. The gelled water will wash away with water, degrade over time & is non toxic & nonhazardous.

How long do Quick Dams last?

Un-activated: indefinite as long as kept dry, so store in their closed package until needed.

Activated: if left in position, they can last for 6-12 months.

Can I re-use them?

Yes, you can re-use them. Once activated, Quick Dams will remain active until the water evaporates, typically taking **several weeks** for complete evaporation. If left in position, they will shrink while evaporating and grow when re-exposed to water.

They seem to shrink. Is that normal?

Yes, as the water evaporates, they will get smaller. If complete evaporation is desired, store Quick Dams in a dry environment, like a garage or shed. Over several weeks, Quick Dams will shrink & become crunchy & ready to store away. Once re-exposed to water, they will absorb & swell again.

I notice a slimy feel on the Quick Dams, what is that?

Quick Dams contain a super absorbent polymer that is non-toxic & non-hazardous and will degrade over time. This degradation is the slime that you feel. Simply wash or wipe it off.



What do I do with them when I'm done?

Quick Dams are environmentally friendly and can be disposed of in the trash. Polymer contents will degrade with UV exposure, pressure and time, leaving an empty pouch that can be thrown in the trash. Gelled contents can be cut out of bag & spread on lawn or garden to provide temporary moisture until degradation occurs, typically within a few days. Contents will be VERY slippery, so keep off of walkways to prevent slip & fall accidents.

Can Quick Dams be used indoors and outdoors?

Yes they can, although they will be moist, so be careful when leaving them on floors that are susceptible to water damage.

What stops Quick Dams from rolling away?

Quick Dam Flood Barriers have an extra wedge stitched along its length that acts as a wedge & prevents them from rolling away.

Can they protect against water higher than 3.5in?

Quick Dams can be stacked 3 high in a brick formation. If you need to go higher, widen the base like a pyramid formation. The higher you need the wall height, the thicker the base should be. Stacking straight up will create an unstable base and they may slide off.

Will Quick Dams leak water?

Quick Dams will absorb, swell & gel water, creating a barrier. If the surface is uneven, seepage may occur. If large amounts of water are expected, double layers or stacking & building a wall may be necessary to prevent leakage. Quick Dams are not a solution for every application.

Will Quick Dams get moldy?

Quick Dams alone will not grow mold, but if they are activated with contaminated water, then there is a possibility, so storing them outdoors to dry out is recommended.

Do Quick Dams have an odor?

No, not on their own. Although they will absorb an odor if it is present in the fluid absorbed, and this may cause it to split open.

Can I drive over Quick Dam Flood Barriers?

Yes & No. As long as the Barriers are NOT fully activated, then you can drive over it- making sure to "squish" the gel back in place to prevent water from seeping through in that area. If the Barriers are fully activated, then you cannot, as the gel needs to go somewhere.

How long do they take to dry out to store away?

Time will vary based on weather conditions. The hotter, drier areas will take a month or so, & more humid, cooler areas may take 3 months. They will be left crunchy. During drying- DO NOT leave them in the sun, as this causes them to degrade & not reactivate later.

Will Quick Dams float?

Until they are activated- they can float on the water- so pre-activating & stacking them may be necessary. Quick Dams should always be stacked higher than the water to avoid floatation.

Can Quick Dams be used in the winter/snow? Will they freeze?

Yes, they can be used in the winter/snow. Make sure they are fully activated before freezing temperatures occur to assure maximum protection when the snow is melting. We do not recommend moving them while frozen to prevent any tearing of the outer material. Also, Salt on the roads should not come in contact with Quick Dams. To help, pre-activate Quick Dams with water & then wrap plastic under & over the top to prevent the salt from making contact.

I've seen other similar items using a white knit or jute fabric, how are they different from Quick Dams?

One of the key features of Quick Dams (Patent Pending) is the black non-woven durable fabric that provides UV protection that prevents degradation of the inner absorbent. Allowing the consumer to leave Quick Dams in position, for many months of ongoing protection. The white, knit & jute products allow UV rays to penetrate through to the inner absorbent, thus degrading them in only 2-3 weeks.

Can Quick Dams be used in the garage for snow melt protection?

Yes they can, but if the cars or driveway have salt on them, this may cause the Quick Dams to only partially absorb & still allow moisture underneath. For this application, we recommend wrapping them in plastic after activation or the Water Curb or Water-Gate.

Why is there seepage underneath Quick Dams?

Uneven surfaces may be the cause as well as when Quick Dams are used on porous surfaces (un finished concrete) - both sides are fighting to absorb water- so there can be some seepage around them.

I let Quick Dams dry out, but notice a white film left behind on the ground- what is this?

We are unsure of the exact nature, but we believe it is due to metals, calcium or contaminants in the water that was absorbed. We suggest lime scale remover as a possible solution.

Can I wash my flood bag/barrier in a dishwasher or washing machine?

No, these are not meant to go in any machine for cleaning. This could cause serious damage to your machines and will ruin the Quick Dam product.

Can I cut my flood bag/barrier?

No. These are not meant to be cut as it will destroy the integrity of the product. The flood barriers are flexible and can be wrapped around or folded.

How do I get rid of the white stain left on my concrete floor by the bag/barrier?

Lyme Remover or chlorine cleaner may work. Please test a small area to see if this will be an effective solution.

The area where I am putting the Quick Dam down is unsealed concrete, will the bags and barriers still work?

We recommend you place plastic beneath flood barrier because it may compete with the Quick Dams and there could be seepage.

My Quick Dam swelled in some areas - but not all?

It is hard to predict what elements the barrier may be exposed to while in use. If parts swelled and others don't the product is not defective. Something may have been mixed in with the water causing it not to activate (sediment, chemicals, etc.)

Please note: Our items are sold dry & do not cause water damage. We are not liable for water damage should the product not work for your application. Water causes water damage, our goal is to help you divert it before it becomes a problem.

