



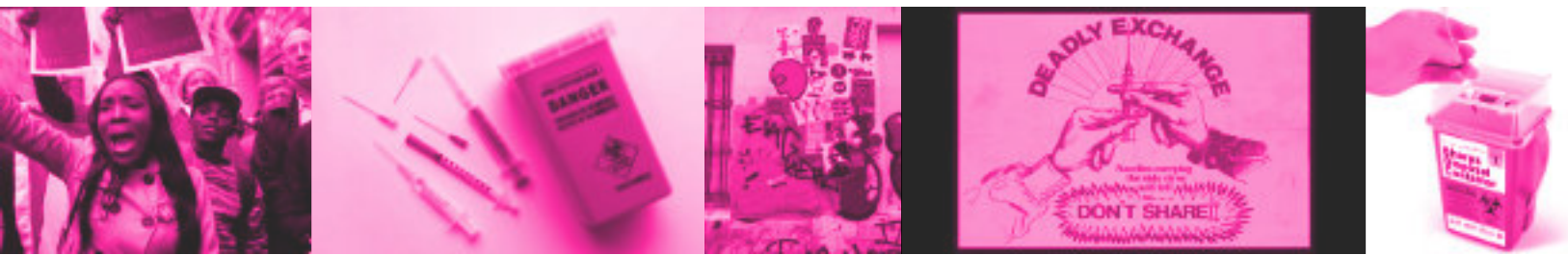
Sharp Intentions

A street guide to guerrilla public health and engaged public activism.

Design Innovation & Society Studio B

Introduction

This guide aims to empower community members with straightforward tools, techniques, and graphics to advocate for public health, fostering the confidence and skills needed to apply guerrilla-style activism to various causes, beliefs, and rights. You'll discover how to make a meaningful impact on your community using simple, eco-friendly, and accessible methods, turning public spaces into platforms for positive change.



Why are sharps a public health campaign?

Proper sharps disposal and safe injection practices are crucial public health issues because improper handling can lead to the spread of blood-borne diseases like HIV and hepatitis. Discarded needles in public spaces pose risks not only to those who inject but also to community members and sanitation workers who may be accidentally exposed. Addressing these practices with accessible education and disposal options helps create safer environments for everyone, reducing stigma and preventing disease transmission in the process.



Wheat paste instructions

Wheat paste is a non-toxic, environmental, temporary, and accessible adhesive used for postering, public art, and in some cases book binding. Made with a simple combination of ingredients many people already have in their kitchen, wheat paste provides a sticky temporary adhesive for posters and public art installations. While wheat paste can last a few weeks in dry & mild conditions, the lifetime depends on the environment and surface it is placed on.



Simple Recipe:

1 Part Flour : 3 Parts Water
= ¼ Cup Flour : 1 Cup Water

Instructions:

1) In a small pot, whisk together the flour and half the water until smooth and without lumps.

2) Place the pot on medium heat and slowly add the remaining water, stirring continuously to avoid clumps.

3) Add the sugar (if using) and continue to stir until the mixture thickens to a paste-like consistency. This usually takes 5-10 minutes.

4) Once it thickens, remove from heat and let it cool slightly before use.

5) To apply wheat paste, brush a thin layer onto the wall where you want to place your poster. Press the poster firmly onto the pasted area, smoothing out any bubbles or wrinkles. Brush another layer of paste over the top of the poster to seal it, ensuring edges are secure.

Considerations:

Wheat pasting is a popular way to share art and messages publicly, but it's important to check local guidelines, as some places have designated areas or permit options. Getting permission for private walls or community spaces can keep projects worry-free.

Optional Add-Ins:

Sugar (1 tbs / ¼ Cup Flour): Adds stickiness

Food Coloring: Adds some color to black and white printer paper

Cornstarch (1 tbs / ¼ Cup Flour): Can make paste thicker and smoother, best for fine details

Coffee or Tea: Adds a visual tint for aesthetic

Enabling Interaction



Posters naturally engage the community and serve as valuable instructions or resources. By adding an interactive layer, like a scannable NFC tag (available online for under \$0.20 each), a QR code (easily generated for free), or pull tabs with information, we can deepen that engagement and provide a richer experience. These features allow us to share additional information, update content as needed, and offer quick access to further resources, making public health information more accessible and impactful.

Ideas for possible Interactions:

Video on proper injection methods

Free Sharps Container

Local Syringe Exchange Program Information

Local Free Sharps Disposal Locations

Local Harm Reduction Organization's Instagram

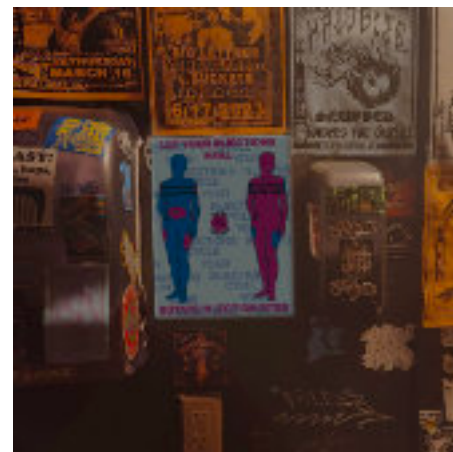
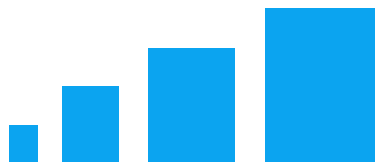
Placement Guide



To maximize visibility and engagement, place posters in high-traffic, informal spaces where people pause or gather daily. Ideal locations include public bathrooms, bus stops, alleyways, blank walls, telephone poles, and dumpsters. Prioritize areas with natural foot traffic and community relevance—places where the message can become a natural part of the environment and reach a diverse audience. When selecting spots, consider the visibility, durability, and accessibility of each location to ensure the posters remain impactful over time.

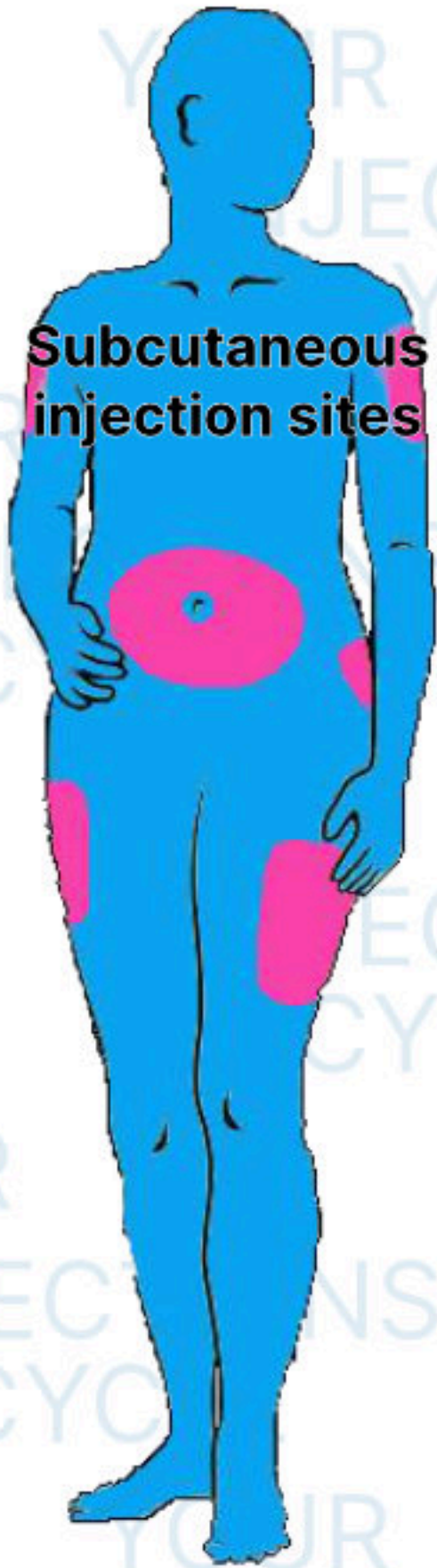


When printing posters, consider stacking multiple in a row, or printing in a grid to expand the size of the poster while still printing on tradition 8.5 x 11 paper.

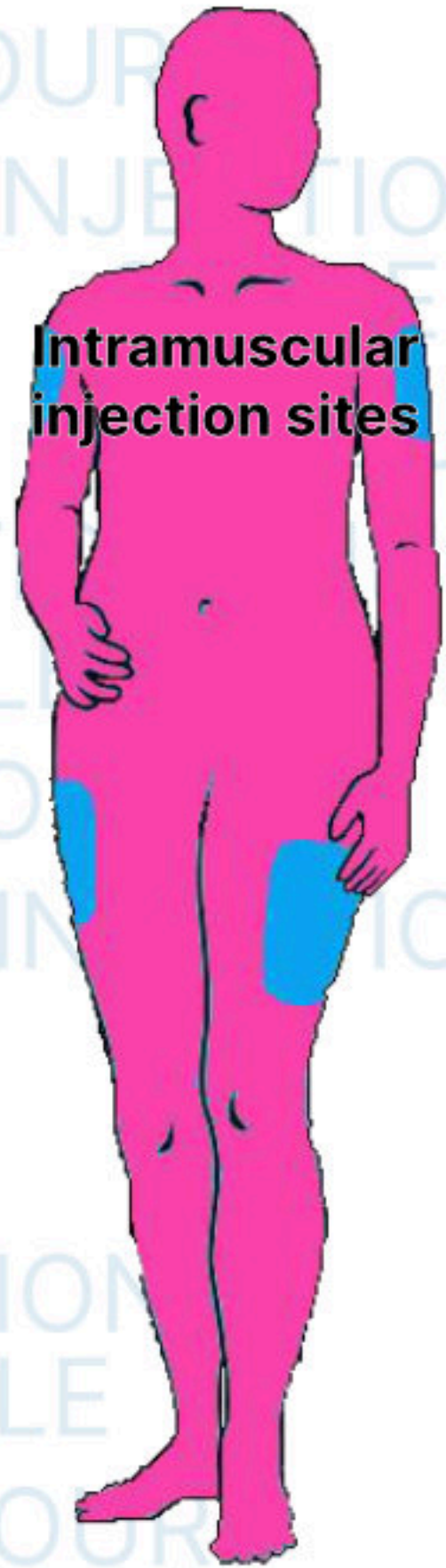


LET YOUR INJECTIONS HEAL

**Subcutaneous
injection sites**



**Intramuscular
injection sites**



ROTATE INJECTION SITES

Safe Disposal is Self-Care

**Did you know
All hospitals
and nursing homes
in New York State
are mandated by
law to accept
home-generated
sharps?**



Safe Disposal is Self-Care

*creates
community.*



Safe



disposal



creates

community.



Safe



disposal

THROW AWAY DIRTY
NEEDLES

USE CLEAN NEEDLES

FIND A NEEDLE
EXCHANGE NEAR
YOU

Tap Me



Learn more!

Tap Me



Learn more!

Tap Me

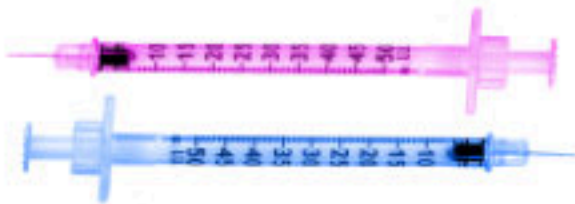


Learn more!

Sticker Sheet

Safe disposal creates community.

Safe disposal creates community.



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ROTATE INJECTION SITES.

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