



**Troublemakers Guide to Rose City:  
Sabotaging Everyday Life**

A little while ago, we came across *Troublemakers Guide to Rose City*, a zine full of ways to sabotage the system that kills and breaks us. With no digital version available, and the information within somewhat lacking, we took it upon ourselves to make *Troublemakers Guide to Rose City #2, Sabotaging Everyday Life*.

Direct action, propaganda by the deed, sabotage— all a beautiful anarchist tradition. These ideas can be daunting if you just think of explosives or arson, and other large acts of destruction. While sabotage can mean setting the whole Leviathanic machine on fire, it can also mean putting sand in its gears in place of oil. We've compiled simple, fun and effective ways to put trouble and sabotage into everyday life in the City of Roses in hopes of making these words less daunting and giving you the knowledge you need to express your discontent with this world and its laws.

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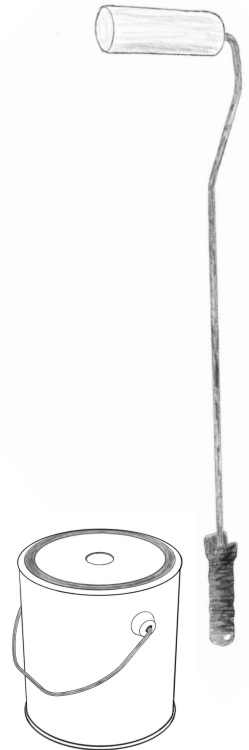
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## Graffiti

Many different things fall under the umbrella of graffiti. Graffiti can be as simple as writing something on a wall with a paint marker or sharpie, or something more extravagant like spraying paint on a large wall with a fire extinguisher. Either way, graffiti is a fun and useful tool for making mischief and sharing your message. Graffiti can also be a great way to build up trust between friends before attempting riskier things.

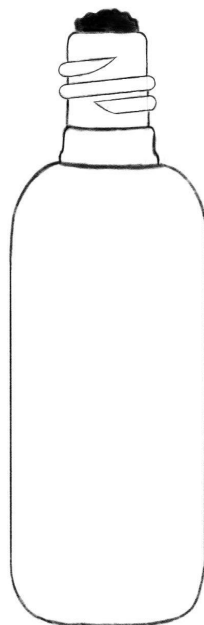
The most common thing associated with graffiti is spray paint. Spray paint is definitely a wonderful tool for graffiti. With it you can paint anything from a small tag to a large piece of art. However, because spray paint is so often associated with illegal graffiti, it can be more difficult for minors to get, especially within the city. It's also often more difficult to steal, as most stores lock spray cans in. If you head out of the city towards the suburbs, you might have more luck finding stores that don't lock up their cans.

Another option (one that is especially good for larger pieces) is roller graffiti. Roller graffiti is done with paint rollers and bucket paint (aka house paint). Rollers can be attached to long or extendable polls to easily reach spots that would be otherwise out of reach. Bucket paint is cheap, and easily found or stolen, and in high volumes. Another wonderful use of house paint is to water it down, fill an empty fire extinguisher, and pressurize with air. Fire extinguishers can spray very high. If you want to write a giant tag, fire extinguishers are the way to go. A full guide to painting with fire extinguishers can be found at [mtlcounterinfo.org/how-to](http://mtlcounterinfo.org/how-to) or on YouTube at *Animal Liberation Media*. One more simple way to cover a large surface in paint quickly is with water balloons or lightbulbs filled with acrylic or house paint. These can be thrown at billboards,



advertisements, murals or anything else you want to fuck up. Paint is also helpful in covering security cameras, as we'll go over later.

Mops, markers and scribes are small and convenient ways to carry graffiti tools everywhere you go. Markers and mops are pretty much the same functionally. The main difference is that mops are made with a soft plastic that allows you to regulate the amount of ink that comes out by squeezing; this is what leads to the classic drip graffiti. You can fill your mop or marker with ink or thinned paint of your choosing. Another possibility that gives you mop or marker a bit more destructive power is to fill it with glass etching solution (such as etchbath) which allows you to permanently burn your tag onto glass. If you do choose to do this, make sure to store your



mops inside of a plastic bag when not in use, etching solution can cause mops to burst. Also, be careful not to get any of the solution on your hands. Gloves are great to help keep you safe: not only do they protect your skin, they also keep paint from staining you. Be aware that nitrile gloves can sometimes hold or transfer prints, so dispose of them carefully. If using thin disposable gloves, consider layering multiple, as they can tear easily, and without you noticing, exposing your fingers to leave prints on whatever you happen to touch.

Glass scribes usually have a tungsten carbide steel tip, which allows you to permanently write into glass by scratching it. You can also create makeshift scribes by sharpening rocks, or by repeatedly folding a low grit sandpaper in half till it's sturdy.

Wheatpaste or poster glue is a great way to put up posters and spread a message around. It is made by mixing together 1 part flour with 3~4 parts water and slowly bringing it to a boil while continuously mixing, until smooth. For a more permanent (and gluten allergy safe) way of

putting up posters, you can acquire wallpaper glue from hardware store. When putting up your posters, you'll first want to apply a layer of wheatpaste directly to the wall using a paint brush or even your hands. Then press your poster on top of the first layer of sticky substance and apply a second layer of whatever you're using over the poster. If you don't have any posters of your own, check out [crimethinc.com/posters](http://crimethinc.com/posters) for some you can print.

Billboards suck. They pollute the city with propaganda/ads from corporations and the state. Luckily, you can subvert them to get your own message across or just block out a message you don't like. If you are unable to climb up directly to the billboard, you can either throw paint balloons at it or use a paint filled fire extinguisher to cover it up from the ground. However, if you are able to climb up to it you have a few more options. You can use the opportunity to display a message of your own, or creatively edit the billboard to change the message already there. This can be done by painting over it, or covering it with a large wheatpaste poster. One favorite method is to just cut it up. Most billboards are made out of a large plastic sheet pulled taught over a metal frame, and as a result are very easy to cut through. This means you can easily cut advertisements down by running a razor blade or knife along the edges. If that sounds like too much work, you can also just slash at it until it's pretty much unreadable.

## **Seed bombs**

Seed bombs are a great way to brighten up parks and neighborhoods that make the terrible decision to have manicured lawns or to sabotage the atrocities that are golf courses. They are easy and cheap to make, but you'll want to do a little research to find plants native to your area. If you are in Portland, some good native options for seed bombs are Oregon Sunshine, Fireweed, Seaside Daisies and Large boykinia. All of

these are very easy to grow and you can find them around Portland. They are all relatively easy to propagate, and can also be found online. Non-native plants such as English ivy or blackberries can easily wreak havoc on a lawn or golf course, but also can drastically affect existing ecosystems and habitats. After you choose a plant and have the seeds, you'll want to mix 1 part wet clay with 1 part soil. Roll this mixture into small balls, somewhere between the size of a marble and a ping pong ball. Then simply press 1-3 seeds into each ball. Now they're done, and you can leave them to beautify the area you see fit.

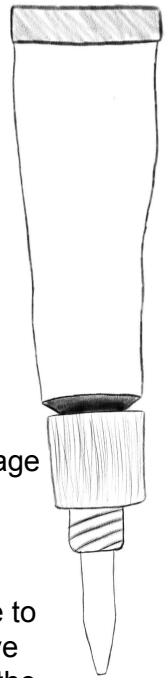


## **Glue**

When it comes to glue based sabotage, potential targets are all around you. Some examples are credit card slots located on transit fare machines, parking meters, or ATM's, making them inoperable. You can mess up the normal flow of the capitol driven day by targeting the locks on vehicles, corporations and factories, buildings that gentrified their way into a neighborhood or even the pad locks on dumpsters. Along with the abundance of targets, glue based sabotage is pretty straightforward. All you really need is a tube of super glue, but things like gift cards and toothpicks can help gunk up the works and make the damage a little harder to fix. All these things can be acquired for free from any big box store, if you're careful. Small and convenient tools of destruction.

There are a couple ways you can glue cards slots. The simplest way is just to take a small bottle of super glue and cover the card slot entrance with glue. This works, but only causes minimal damage and is pretty

easy to fix as most of the glue is on the outside of the machine. Another way to do it, is to insert gift cards covered with super glue into the card slot of the machine. You can easily acquire blank gift cards from most big box stores—some chains even encourage you to take their gift cards for free. Cutting the gift cards in half will allow you to insert the card all the way into the slot, without a way to pull it back out of the slot from the outside making it significantly harder to remove.



For more info and examples check out the zine "Sabotage of ATMs, Fare Machines and Parking Meters" on [rosecitycounterinfo.noblogs.org](http://rosecitycounterinfo.noblogs.org).

When it comes to gluing locks, you are once again able to use just glue. Since most small bottle of super glue have pretty thin nozzles, You are able to jam the nozzle into the key way of the lock and then you simply squeeze out as much super glue as you can into the lock. An even more effective way is to take something like a toothpick, or really anything that will fit in the keyway, cover it in glue and insert it into the lock as far as you can. Then simply snap off whatever is still protruding from the lock and viola! That lock aint opening without a whole lot of difficulty.

### **Bikes and scooters**

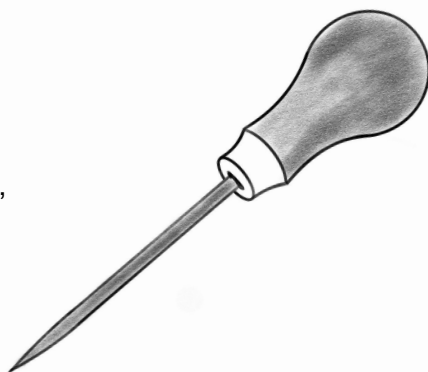
When I say bikes and scooters I am referring to Portland's Nike bikes, Lime scooters, Bird scooters, and all other forms of pay to use transportation that litter our streets for the enjoyment of yuppies, not people's personal modes of transportation. Here are just some of the things you can do in order to counteract these awful machines.

1- Cover up or remove the QR code that allows potential users to pay and unlock the bike or scooter. These QR codes are located on the handlebars of scooters and on both the handlebars and rear fender for the bikes. Making the QR codes unreadable can easily be done more subtly by making a dot or line on it with a paint pen or sharpie. But you can also scrape them off with a razor. Some scooters may have the QR codes displayed on a digital screen, if this is the case you also have the choice to shatter the screen.

2- Pop the tires. This method can be a little tricky as the tires tend to be made from pretty thick rubber (in hopes of preventing pops), but is nonetheless still possible. Simply jab a knife or awl firmly into the tire, and repeat if necessary. While it's extremely difficult to pop the tires of the scooters, the Nike bike tires are very easy to pop.

3- Cut the break lines. Both the bikes and the scooters rely on traditional lever style hand breaks and often have exposed break lines as a result. You can cut through these wires with a Leatherman, though it may require a good amount of grip strength. It's easier to use small fence cutters or wire cutters.

4- Throw it off an overpass or bridge. This is especially easy because of the increased amount of these vehicles around the waterfront/downtown area due to it being a tourist spot. I have only ever seen this done with scooters, and significantly less in recent years, but it used to be a pretty common occurrence to see broken scooters if you were to ever look over the side of a bridge or overpass





## Cars

"This month in Portland, a car was used to attack about a dozen people, killing one. This year, cars have been used to attack anti-state protestors again and again. The world is crawling with cars. The earth suffocates with asphalt so that they might drive all over over it. The air chokes on the toxic fumes that their engines spit out. Our cities are organized entirely around cars, these gridded sprawls of streets, parking lots, garages, and high-rises caring more about the machine than the animals they threaten. Daily we walk past the mangled corpses of the animal victims that cars murder. Counterattacks have been long past due." -Series of Attacks on Cars in the Pacific Northwest – a reportback

Note: In this zine we are choosing to focus on relatively easy and straightforward acts of sabotage. For this reason we will not be covering any methods of arson, however effective it may be.

A lot a manuals out there say that adding things like bleach to the fuel tank of a car will cause engine damage. However, in our research we have found very little to back this up. Adding things like bleach or very fine sand to the engine oil seems to be a better supported method of causing potential engine damage, but we don't really have much conclusive evidence.

The easiest ways to sabotage cars are to target the wheels and windows. The best way to pop a car tire is by stabbing an awl, pick, knife or basically anything thin and sharp into the sidewall of the tire. A helpful tip for popping tires (especially large car tires) is that stabbing the top of the side of the tire is significantly easier than stabbing the bottom because of the tire pressure distribution. Piercing a tire is significantly more quiet and subtle than a broken window, and more directly prevents the car from being driven.

Most car windows are made from tempered glass meaning they are made to be impact resistant. Center punches are especially effective. This means that the easiest way to break them is by using something with a very fine point. Besides tools specifically designed to break tempered glass, you are also able to use the point of a scribe or something similar. It is also possible to use the ceramic shards from spark plugs, sometimes called ninja rocks which when thrown or shot from a slingshot will cause glass to break. Once the window is out of the way, a fast and effective method for making a car very unpleasant if not impossible to drive is to dump bait oil onto the driver's seat.

Slingshot will cause glass to break. Once the window is out of the way, a fast and effective method for making a car very unpleasant if not impossible to drive is to dump bait oil(a putrid smelling oil used in place of real bait) onto the driver's seat.

A classic way to fuck with someone's car is by "keying it": using a key, or other sharp metal object, to scratch and damage the paint and external body of the car. This can cost an owner hundreds to thousands of dollars of repair, but doesn't effect the car's actual function, so is probably most effective against luxury cars that are bought for their appearance.

Can also glue the locks on cars, like was discussed earlier, and there are many ways to fuck with a car's internal mechanics by damaging parts under the hood or underneath the car.

### **Breaking windows**

Windows. Expensive and fragile, they're always one of the first parts of a building to be attacked. There are generally two types of glass used: annealed glass and tempered glass. Annealed glass breaks more readily from a blunt force impact, whereas tempered glass (like in car windows) breaks more readily from a sharp impact like that from a scribe or center punch. Tempered glass shatters

entirely, breaking into many small pieces, while annealed glass typically breaks only partly, and into large shards. Most store windows are annealed glass, of varying thickness and layers, and might be laminated. Glass doors are generally required to be made out of tempered or laminated glass for safety reasons. Glass comes in a wide range of strengths, and some windows will break easily, while some you might not succeed in breaking. If your strongest hits don't break a window, just move on. It will have been noisy, and it's best not to stay in the area for too long. There are always more windows.

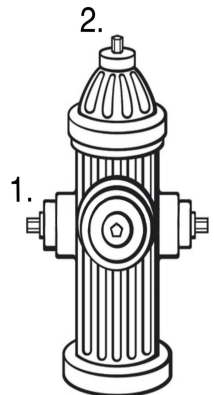
Anything that can deliver a strong impact can break glass: thrown bricks or rocks, hammers, crowbars, tire irons, u-locks, a "smiley" (a padlock swung on a rope or chain), etc.

Breaking glass can be dangerous, and it's easy to get cut by the sharp edges you make. Make sure your swing doesn't end with your hand or arm hitting the jagged edges of the hole you just made. It's smart to wear glasses and gloves of some kind to help prevent shards going into your eyes or hands. The thicker the gloves the better, and leather is more cut resistant than cotton or synthetic material.

Glass is often weaker by the bottom corners. Lastly, if your goal is to cause financial loss, remember that glass doors are often more expensive than windows.

## Fire hydrants

Fire hydrants are shockingly simple to open as you please. Firefighters traditionally use what's called a hydrant wrench to open them, but any sufficiently large wrench will work. First you'll want to screw off the cover of the outlet nozzle (see figure 1). Then you twist the operating nut (see figure 2) counter clockwise till water is released. Makes sure you are not standing in front of the outlet nozzle when you release the water. You will get very wet and possibly injured.



## **Security Cameras and Ring Doorbells**

Security cameras make a great target for small direct actions. They're all over the city, and every disabled camera opens up space free of surveillance. Most common are the security cameras mounted on the sides of buildings. Generally, most security cameras are one of two shapes: dome and bullet cameras. Dome cameras are circular, with the camera lens protected and concealed by a dome-shaped cover. Bullet cameras have a longer shape, typically either cylindrical or rectangular, and the body of the camera points in a specific direction.

The simplest way to disable a security camera is by painting over the lens or lens cover. Spray paint is easy for this. For cameras out of reach of a spray can, paint from a pump sprayer or fire extinguisher works just as well.

For damage that's potentially more permanent or expensive, cameras can be smashed or removed completely. Bullet cameras can often just be ripped off a wall with bodyweight, and many cameras can be knocked off with blunt force from a hammer, bat, etc. Dome cameras are often mounted flush to a wall, and their shape can make it more difficult to get the leverage needed to pull one off. Bullet cameras generally provide plenty of horizontal space to grab onto and otherwise apply force. When out of reach, cameras can sometimes be pulled down using a rope thrown over the camera's mount. When smashing a camera, you're mostly trying to break the lens cover and maybe the camera lens behind it. The strength of lens covers is really variable, and it's hard to predict with a quick glance at the camera what it will take to break one. On some dome cameras, the lens cover broke with one hit from a small center punch, whereas others were able withstand repeated hard strikes with a hammer. Some of the latter cameras were eventually knocked off the wall they were attached to, still intact, and then were put on the street and subjected to a large sledgehammer and

pickaxe. The lens cover never broke. Most security cameras that have been experimented with in Portland aren't nearly that sturdy. Online, some dome cameras are marketed as being "vandalism proof" and we assume that it's those that are so hard to break, but they look pretty much like any other standard dome camera. Some cameras are mounted in a way that leaves wiring exposed, going from the camera to the wall, and these wires can be cut through with wire or cable cutters.

Besides the standard security cameras, doorbells with surveillance cameras are becoming increasingly common on wealthier homes. Most common are Amazon Ring and Google Nest cameras. These can typically be pulled or pried off using a small pry bar, crowbar, claw hammer or similar, and then disposed off. Like any other camera, the lens can be painted over with spray paint.

It's sometimes possible to avoid being recorded by a security camera by approaching at the right angle or by carefully blocking its view with an umbrella, but if you go out to target surveillance cameras you should dress with the assumption that there's going to be resulting security footage

### **Fashion tips**

When engaging in any sort of potentially criminalized direct action, you should dress for anonymity. Mask up and cover up any identifying features— tattoos, hair, facial structure, eyebrows, forehead, etc. Ideally, no part of your body is uncovered. If it's too dark out for sunglasses, safety glasses can help, and a hat with a brim will keep your eyes out of sight of most cameras. Wear gloves during the action, and when touching anything you might leave behind. Thin latex or vinyl

gloves can rip and expose your fingerprints— with disposable gloves, layer two on each hand or find ones that come double layered or heavy duty.

Be careful about your shoe choice. Even with the best outfit otherwise, that favorite pair of Nike's that you wear everywhere could be one thing that makes you a suspect. You can cover shoes with large socks or disposable shoe covers.

Don't just dress for anonymity, be intentional about your appearance. The context of your action is crucial when considering what to wear. Wearing all black head-to-toe is perfect when you're part of a black bloc, but a poor choice almost any other time. An umbrella is great for going unseen by overhead security cameras, but would attract unwanted attention if it isn't raining. If you're going out in the afternoon to glue ATMs, it's probably best to ditch the balaclava for a hat and mask that won't arouse suspicion. Luckily, the COVID-19 pandemic has made wearing a mask completely normal.

Consider whether or not you are going to be seen, and how people might react. Going through the woods at night, dark drab colors might keep you from ever being noticed. If you're taking an ad off of a lit-up billboard, you're going to be really visible anyway. Maybe throw on some hi-vis gear so those who do see you at least think you belong.

Depending on the action, consider having a fast way to change your appearance afterwards. If someone tells the police that it was someone in a red hoodie and blue hat smashing in the bank window, you want to be wearing something else as soon as possible.

Know the area that you're taking action in. Where are the security cameras? What streets have the most cars passing by? Where will there be people walking? Does someone like to sleep next to the window you planned to break? Is there a bar that stays open really late across the street?

When you're on bike or foot, it can be really helpful to know what paths you can go down where cars aren't able to follow. Plan for how you're getting there, AND how you're getting out afterwards.

Don't bring a phone.

Gluing something can be really subtle. Smashing windows isn't. You could superglue a lock and then keep walking and gluing more for an hour without being noticed, but if you break a window you'll need to leave the area pretty fast. If you're doing multiple things in one place, save the loudest and riskiest for last (example: spray paint first, then smash shit before you leave). Be careful and intentional when combining different kinds of action.

Most importantly, don't get caught and have fun!!!



## Rose City Counter-info

Digital copies of this zine for printing/distribution and online reading can be found at:  
[rosecitycounterinfo.noblogs.org](http://rosecitycounterinfo.noblogs.org)

Content can be submitted to  
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