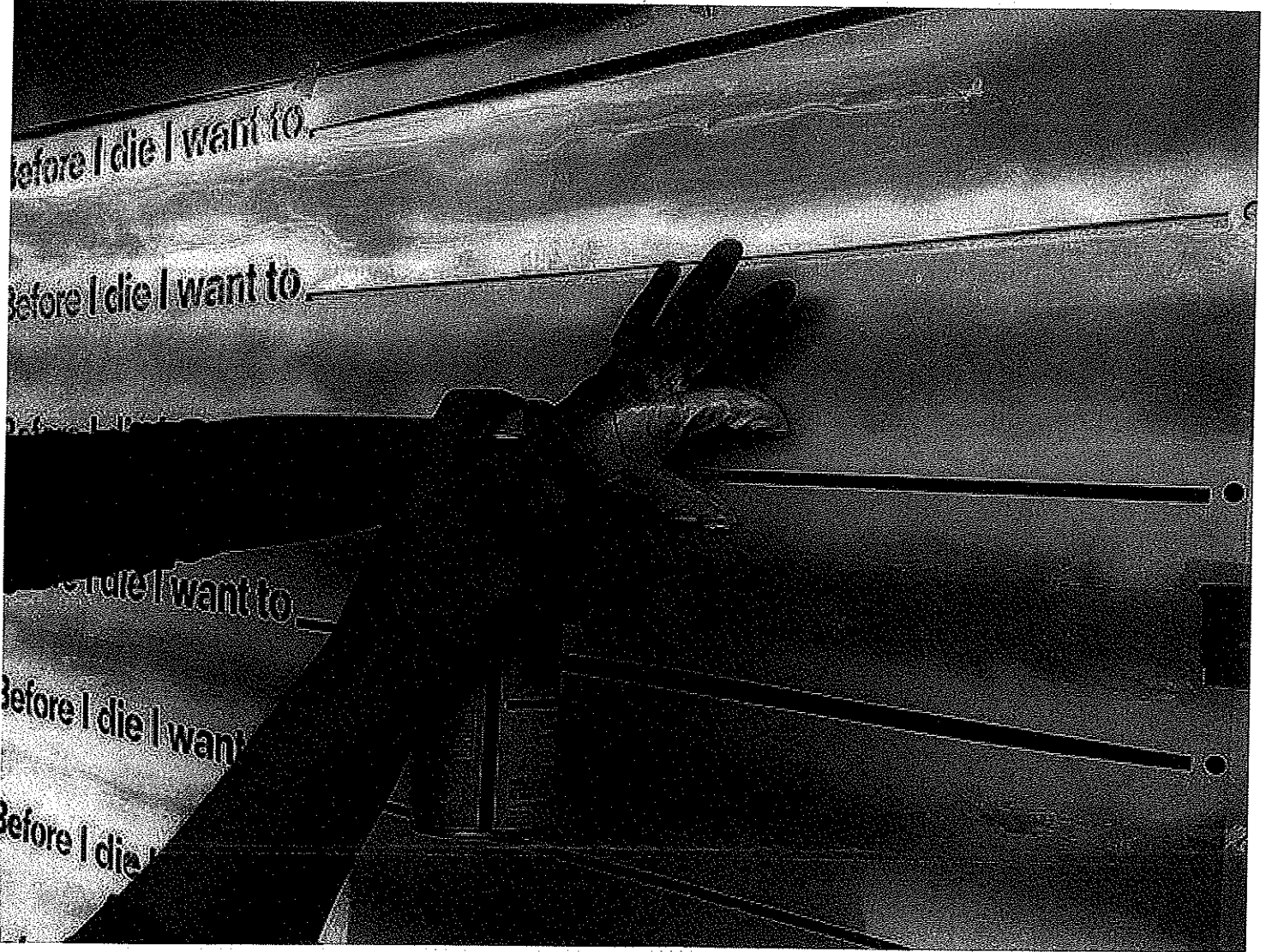


Build Your Own Wall

Helpful Resources To Make Your Own Wall



If you are interested in creating a wall, please contact us first. Once you are approved, you can find resources on this page. Also read the [FAQ](#) to learn more about the process. We have discontinued selling the toolkit. However, you can purchase all the toolkit items directly from the manufacturers—we included links in the What You'll Need section below. We also created a folder of free resources you can download [here](#). It includes a step-by-step guide, a checklist of materials, and helpful examples (also shown below), as well as files of the stencils if you'd like to create your own or edit them for another language. Learn more about how to create a wall below!

Five Main Steps

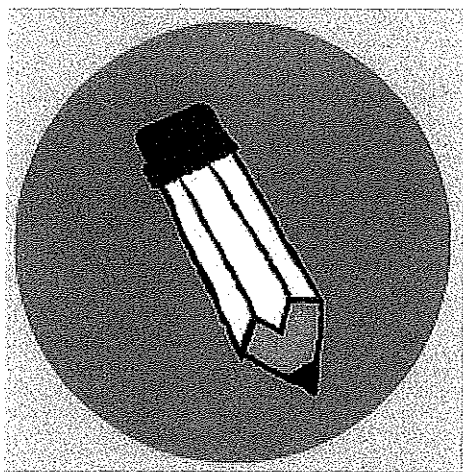
To Make Your Wall

<http://beforeidie.cc/site/build-your-own-before-i-die-wall/>



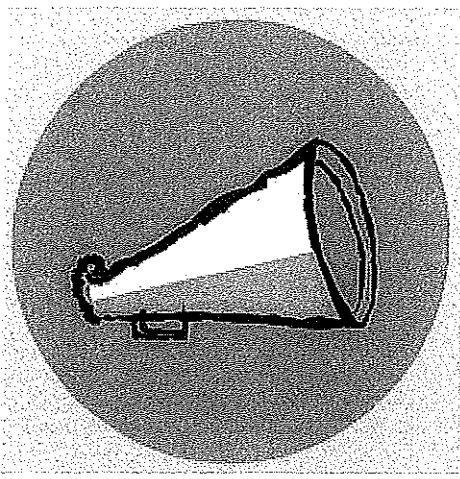
1. Choose a Site

A good location has regular foot traffic. Once you find an ideal location, find out who owns the property and see what they think of the idea. People have painted on construction barriers, sides of buildings, and interior walls. They've also built plywood walls and attached them to fences or placed them in plazas, campuses, and parks. A wall can be created by one person, but it's easier if you have help! People have created walls with friends, family, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and organizations who can help provide a space or other resources.



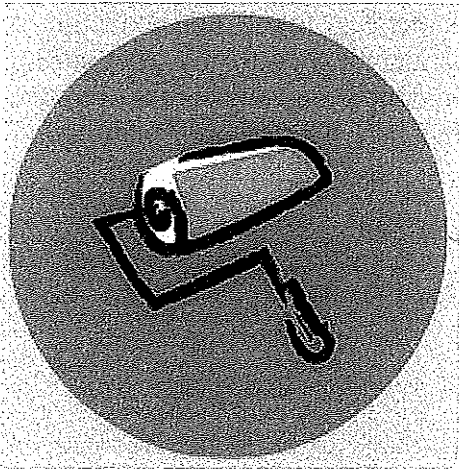
2. Get Permission

Public spaces are for everyone, and it's important to respect the community where you plan to install your wall. A good way to obtain permission is by speaking with people who live and work near the site you've chosen, such as the owner of the property, local community groups, and business owners and residents in the area. Every city has different rules concerning public art, so consider partnering with a local organization who can help you with this process.



3. Spread the Word

Select a date for your “ribbon-cutting” and spread the word. Most importantly, inform the people who live and work around the wall so they know what’s happening. People have used social media, print and online publications, local organizations, mailing lists, and flyers to organize and promote their wall.



4. Make Your Wall

We’ve included a checklist of materials and general costs below, which will depend on your wall size and structure. A typical wall can take a day or two to paint and stencil. Depending on the weather, the chalkboard paint can take several hours to thoroughly dry. Below you’ll find a step-by-step guide to help you on installation day.



5. Maintain Your Wall

Check on your wall frequently to take photos and document responses. A few thoughtful responses will set the tone for your wall. If there is anything inappropriate, just erase it. Once the wall is full, wash it with water to start fresh again. Take lots of photos and share your wall on the Before I Die website! We've provided a WordPress template and step-by-step guide to help you create a mini-site here. A mini-site is a page where you can post photos and responses and document the story of your wall. It's free, super easy to use, and no technical skills are required. Visit [the Budapest mini-site](#) to see an example. You can include links to any other sites where you're featuring your wall, as well as people and organizations involved. Once you have photos of your wall, email [Liz](#) and she'll set you up with login and password information. Click [here](#) for more information on setting up your mini-site page.

What You'll Need

A Handy Checklist

Below is a handy checklist of materials to make your Before I Die wall. We've included approximate costs, which will vary depending on the size of your wall and where you purchase your materials. A 24' x 8' wall requires 6-8 cans of chalkboard paint and 2-3 cans of spray paint. The amount of chalk you'll need will depend on how long your wall is up. Read below for links to purchase the stencils, chalkboard paint, chalk holders, and chalk we used. Feel free to purchase materials from other sources.

 <p>Column Stencil \$75 + shipping</p>	 <p>Title Stencil \$40 + shipping</p>	 <p>Chalk Holders \$4 each</p>	 <p>Colored Chalk \$1 per box</p>
 <p>Disposable gloves WHEN SPRAY PAINTING \$1</p>	 <p>Tarp or Trash bags TO PROTECT GROUND \$5</p>	 <p>Chalkboard Paint \$10 each for 30 oz. can</p>	 <p>White Spray Paint \$1-3 each</p>
 <p>Paint Trays \$3 each</p>	 <p>Paint Rollers \$3 each</p>	 <p>Sponge Brush/Paint Brush FOR TOUCHING UP \$2 each</p>	 <p>Hammer & Nails FOR CHALK HOLDERS \$9</p>
 <p>Measuring Tape OR RULER \$5</p>	 <p>Duct Tape/Painters Tape TO HANG STENCIL ON WALL \$3</p>	 <p>Sponge Mop FOR CLEANING \$4</p>	 <p>Bucket FOR CLEANING \$3</p>

Stencils

You can see all readymade [stencil options here](#), including English versions, Spanish versions, and other languages. If you'd like to purchase stencils in another language, contact them [here](#) for pricing.

Column/Line stencil

What we used \$75 + shipping

39" x 50" stencil with a seven-line column of the fill-in-the-blank sentence, "Before I die I want to _____." The stencil is manufactured from thick .10 mm mylar to make it easy to hang rigid and spray-paint with minimal tape and time. We recommend using a stencil like this, but there are cheaper ways too. Candy made the original stencil by printing the sentence out on a few pieces of paper, gluing it to a piece of poster board, and cutting the letters out with a blade. This took a lot more time, but it's doable too.

Title/Headline stencil

What we used. \$40 + shipping

9'-long stencil of the large headline "Before I die..." The stencil is manufactured from .05 mm mylar so it will hang rigid and flat with minimal tape. We recommend using a stencil like this, but here are cheaper ways too. Candy made the original stencil by printing it out on large format paper at a local copy center and cutting the letters out with scissors. The paper stencil requires a lot more tape to keep it flat on the wall, but it's doable too.

Chalkboard paint

What we used. Rust-Oleum 30-oz. Flat Black Chalkboard Paint. Any chalkboard paint will work. A 24' x 8' wall requires 6-8 cans (30 oz size) of chalkboard paint.

Spray paint

What we used. A flat/matte white spray paint works best, but any spray paint will work. A 24' x 8' wall requires 2-3 cans of spray paint.

Chalk holders

What we used. 3" x 6" x 2" steel wire mesh containers (item #251201). Feel free to use any weather-proof container with holes to let rain pass through.

Chalk

What we used. We found Crayola colored chalk withstood rain better than a few other brands, but any chalk will work.

Examples of Walls

To stir your mind

Below are examples of Before I Die walls in other cities to show you the variety of ways people have created their own walls. There's no right or wrong way; just the way that works for you and your community!



CONSTRUCTION BARRIER
Brooklyn, NY



SIDE OF BUILDING
Lisbon, Portugal



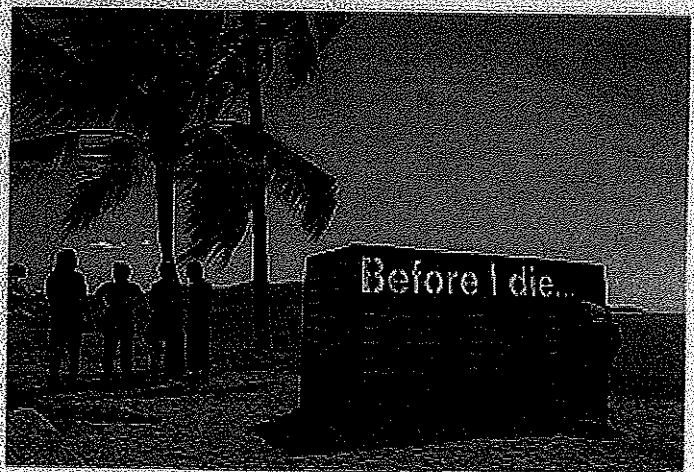
PLYWOOD ATTACHED TO FENCE
Reno, NV



FREESTANDING PLYWOOD WALL
San Francisco, CA



PLYWOOD LEANING AGAINST BUILDING
Montreal, Canada



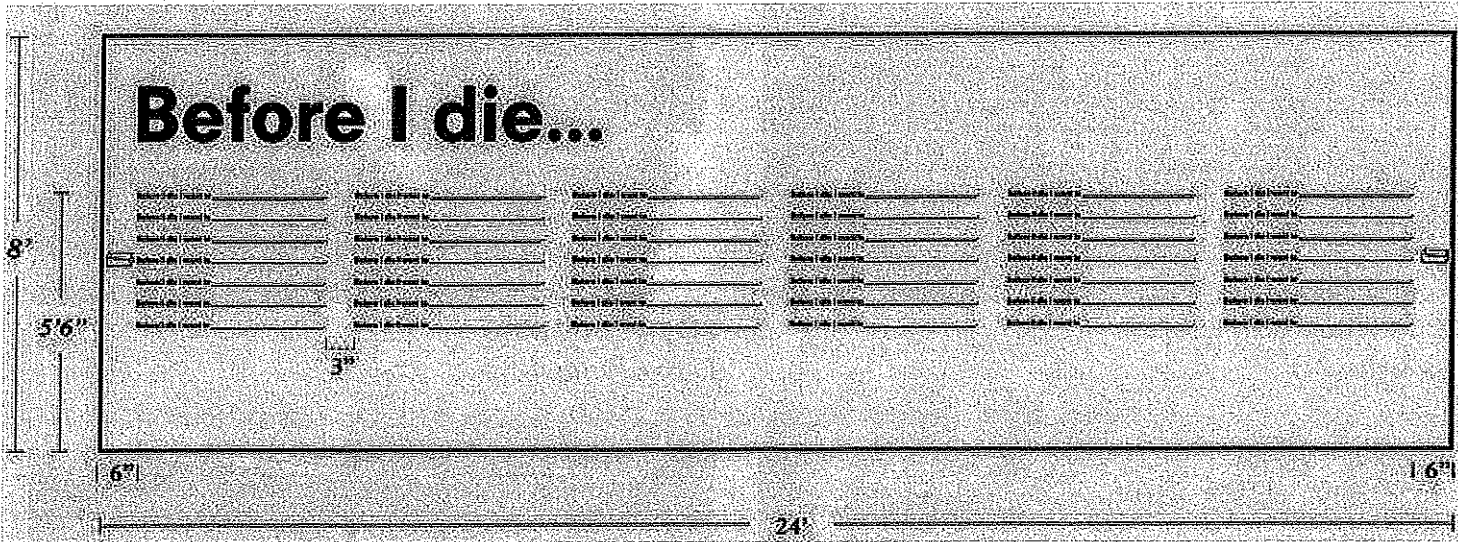
STANDALONE STRUCTURE
Townsville, Australia

Wall Layout

Helpful Notes for Planning Your Layout

<http://beforeidie.cc/site/build-your-own-before-i-die-wall/>

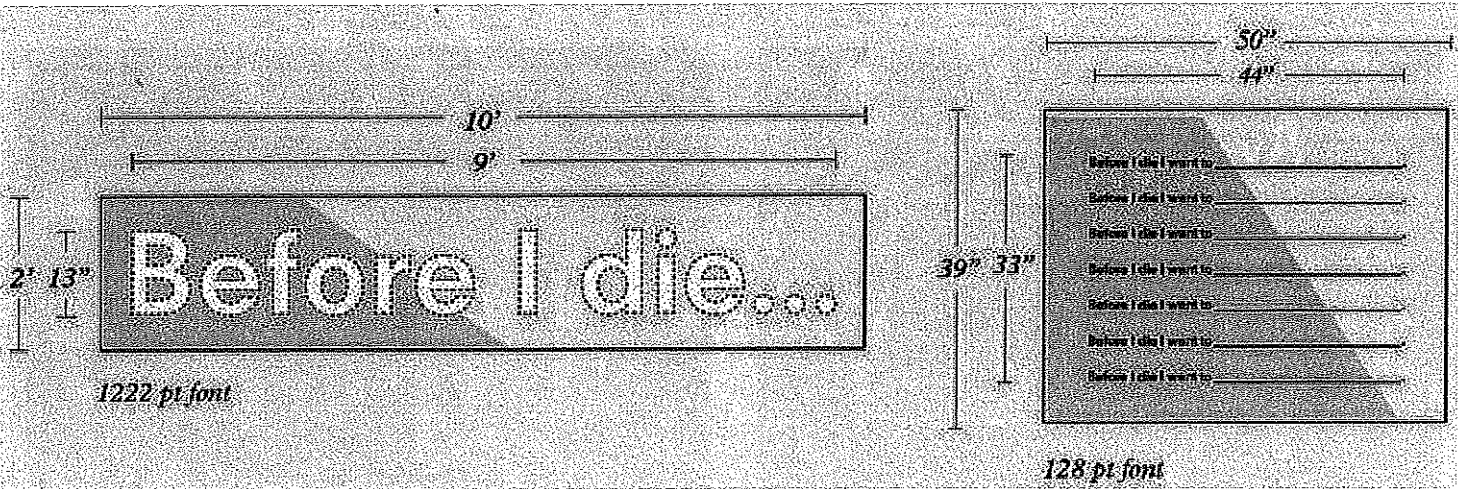
Depending on the size of your wall, the number of columns and spacing will vary. Our wall in New Orleans was 41 feet (12.5 meters) long and comfortably fit 10 rows. Keep in mind space to fit your chalk holders. The diagram below is an example of how a 24 foot long wall could look like. Feel free to do what feels right for you.



Stencil Dimensions

The Height & Width of Your Stencils

Here are the dimensions of the stencils we've used to help you figure out how to lay out your wall. You can purchase them directly from [this stencil manufacturer](#) or you can create your own stencils. A one-column prompt stencil makes it much faster to stencil, and a thick mylar (plastic) material makes it easy to hang your stencil rigid to a wall with minimal tape. The text font is Neuzeit Book Heavy with -25 kerning. You can find the font online.



Make Your Wall

A Step-by-Step Guide

Here's a six-step guide to help you make your wall. A typical wall can take one or two days to create depend-

ing on the size of your wall, how quickly the chalkboard paint dries in your climate, and how many people are helping you. Have fun!



1

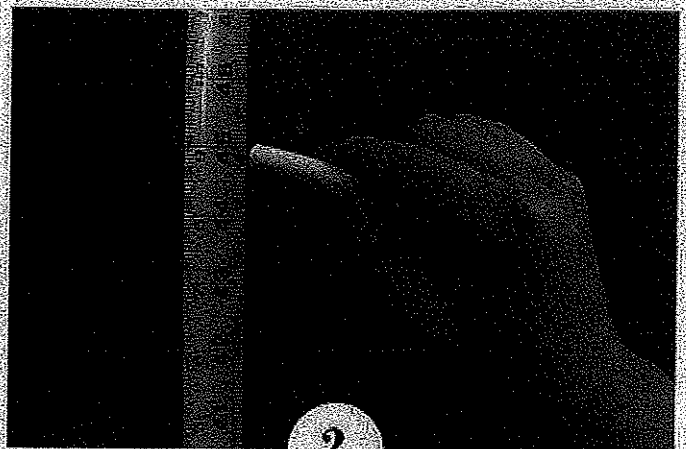
Paint

Lay tarp (or any cheap material with a large surface area) in front of your wall to keep the ground free of paint. Using a paint roller, apply two coats of chalkboard paint. Use a paint brush to fill in any unpainted cracks. Take a break and let the paint dry.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



Tarp Chalkboard Paint Paint Tray Paint Roller Paint Brush



2

Measure & Mark

Measure and mark the placement of the stencils so they will be evenly distributed across your wall and at a comfortable height. A piece of string or chalk line can help you create a horizontal line to align your stencil. Remember space for chalk holders.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



Tape Measure Chalk



3

Stencil!

Line up the stencil to your markings and tape it to the wall. Shake your spray paint can well and spray in light strokes. A little goes a long way! Hold the stencil down with your other hand to help make crisp lines. You can always use chalkboard paint to touch it up later.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



4

Add Chalk

Attach chalk holders with nails or screws and make sure they are securely fastened to the wall. If you need more than two chalk holders, you can use any weather-proof container that allows rain to pass through. Add colorful sticks of chalk and let the sharing begin!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



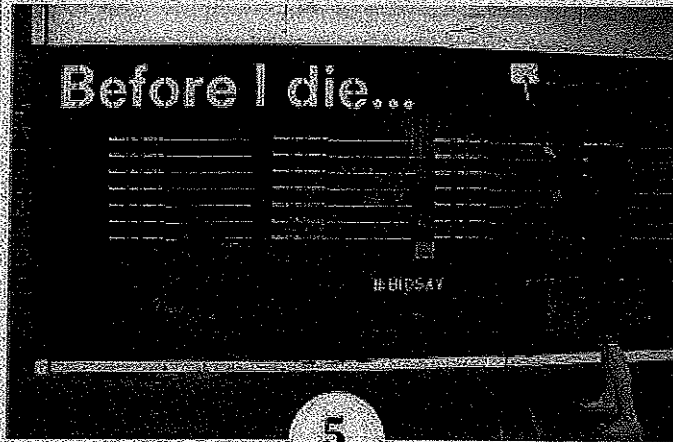




 Tarp Duct Tape Column stencil Title stencil Gloves Spray Paint




 Chalk Holder Chalk Hammer & Nails



5

Maintain

Check on your wall frequently to document responses, provide more chalk, and keep it clean. If there is anything inappropriate, just erase it. When the wall is completely filled, wash it off using a wet sponge mop or towel so more people can share their hopes too.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



 Sponge Mop Bucket



6

Document & Share

Take lots of photos of your wall and share them with others! We've provided a step-by-step guide to help you document and share your wall online. Learn more on our site at beforeidie.cc.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



 Camera Internet access

Tweet

Like 1.3k

Before I Die is a global art project that invites people to reflect on their lives and share their personal aspirations in public space. This project was started by Candy Chang on an abandoned house in New Orleans after she lost someone she loved. Learn more [here](http://beforeidie.cc).

