

Glitter Bombing: Weapon of Choice for Gay Rights, Pro Choice Advocates

Glitter bombing is a relatively recent phenomenon and has been adopted as a form of protest, particularly (but not exclusively) by gay rights activists and supporters. Glitter bombing is readily accessible via Ruin Days (www.ruindays.com), an online business that offers a variety of glitter bomb options, including envelopes and spring-loaded tubes. A spring-loaded glitter bomb tube can be purchased anonymously for \$22.99, and Ruin Days will ship directly to the intended recipient. Ruin Days posts the following caveat: “Your billing information and email will appear nowhere on the package.”



Glitter bomb mailing tube (per open source)

Although glitter bombing as an offense has yet to be codified, some legal officials argue glitter bombing is technically an assault and battery.

The glitter bombing of public officials rose to prominence in 2011, when Newt Gingrich, Tim Pawlenty, Michele Bachmann, Karl Rove and Erik Paulson were all similarly glitter bombed. The common denominator among these political figures is a conservative orientation and opposition to gay rights, especially marriage equality. Recipients in 2012 included Rick Santorum (on four separate occasions),

Mitt Romney and Ron Paul. Mitt Romney’s bomber, a University of Colorado student, faced up to six months in jail and a fine of \$1000. Glitter bombing was featured in the Season 3 premiere of *Glee* on September 20, 2011.



Glitter bomb effects (per open source)

Nebraska Congressman Jeff Fortenberry was glitter bombed on March 4, 2015, at his office in Lincoln. Fortenberry, a Republican Representative endorsed by Nebraska Right to Life, was targeted by a pro-choice group who included a note. In addition to local law enforcement, Fortenberry’s staff notified the US Capitol Police, the US Postal Inspector and the FBI.

Glitter bombing, which releases a “blizzard of glitter” (according to the media coverage of Rick Santorum’s bombing in February 2012), may pose a health hazard to the recipient in the form of glitter particles entering the eyes, nose, lungs or other soft tissue, which may result in irritation or infection.

VIDEO: *Here’s what it’s actually like to open a glitter bomb:*

<http://www.dailydot.com/lol/ship-your-enemies-glitter-bomb-opening-video/>