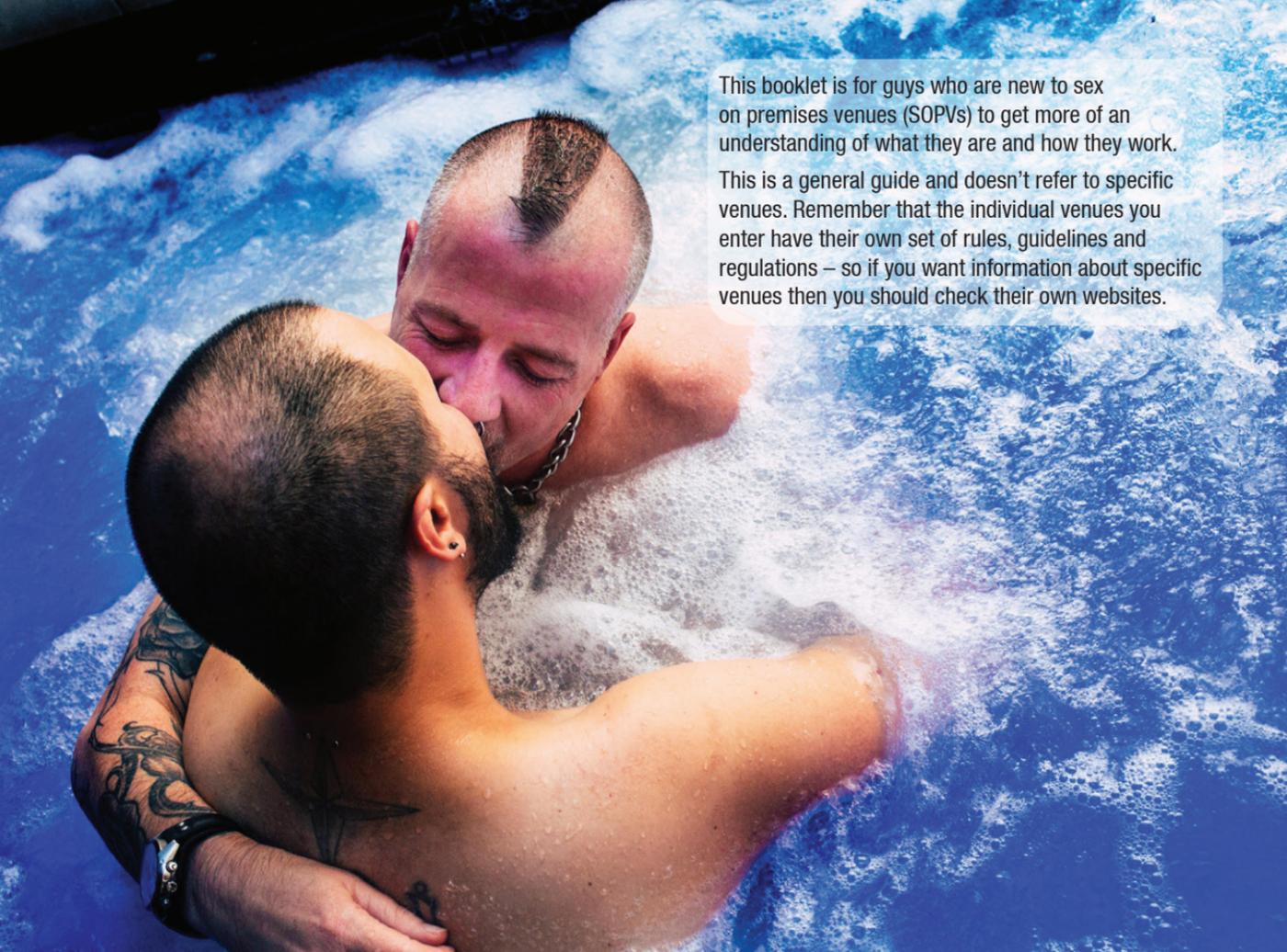




Cruising

A Down an' Dirty guide to cruising
and sex on premises venues.

A photograph of two men embracing in a hot tub. The man in the foreground is seen from the back, with a large tattoo on his left arm and a watch on his wrist. The man behind him has a mohawk and is wearing a chain necklace. They are surrounded by bubbling water.

This booklet is for guys who are new to sex on premises venues (SOPVs) to get more of an understanding of what they are and how they work.

This is a general guide and doesn't refer to specific venues. Remember that the individual venues you enter have their own set of rules, guidelines and regulations – so if you want information about specific venues then you should check their own websites.

What is a Sex On Premises Venue?

A sex on premises venue (SOPV) is a privately owned business for men to go and have sex with other men, socialise and relax. There are different types of venues: sex clubs, saunas and backrooms. You pay a fee to enter, and once inside depending on what type of venue you are at, you may get a towel and a locker key, or a box to put your wallet, keys, phone etc in.

One thing first timers will notice is how guys most often signal for sex without speaking, this is known as cruising. The communication is done through body language and body movements. When guys do chat it is usually rather brief, straight to the point and then off you go for some fun.

How much you enjoy your visit depends on a lot of different things, if the right guy doesn't come along or sex doesn't work like you'd hoped, just brush it off. You never knows what's around the corner and you may find some group action or meet someone new to hang out with or just relax by yourself.

Conditions of Entry

When arriving at a venue, sometimes the conditions of entry are different. For most venues, you'll have to pay entry and if you are visibly too drunk or drug affected then you'll probably be refused entry. Some venues will ask you for ID when you arrive.

Scanners have been installed at some venues to prevent anyone who has been previously banned from re-entering a venue in an effort to keep punters safe. The venues state that when your ID is scanned, it is kept on file and deleted a short time later.

Some venues have a liquor licence so you're able to purchase and consume alcohol within the bar/cafe areas. You will not be served if you're visibly drunk. You must follow the house rules, so ask the staff if you're unsure as they're there to help.



What's in a SOPV?

Sex Clubs

In a sex club you will most likely find sling rooms, dark room, play rooms, public sex areas, cubicles, suckatorium, douche room, movie lounge and snack bar. Sex clubs often host themed parties such as nude, fisting or watersports events. They usually have private rooms that can also be hired for use.

Saunas

The main features of a sauna include the 'wet areas' such as a steam room, spa and/or pool. Once you enter you will be given a towel and a key to a locker for your clothes and belongings.

Backrooms

Backrooms are attached to adult bookshops, although not all bookshops have backrooms. Backrooms have fewer facilities than saunas or sex clubs, and some just have cubicles with glory holes and a suckatorium. They usually have coin operated video booths that play a selection of gay and straight porn.

Adult Cinemas

These are venues that screen porn and can include cubicles for viewing where sex can take place. These venues might not provide any safe sex resources, so if you go to an adult cinema it's a good idea to be prepared and take your own condoms and lube.

Facility Definitions

Cubicle: a small room with a lockable door usually with a vinyl mattress.

Douche room: venues with a douching room have a clear plastic hose that you can purchase from the counter. For more information on douching go to downanddirty.org

Darkroom: the darkroom has no door and a very low level of light, it's designed for groups and more anonymous forms of play.

Glory hole/Suckatorium: a hole between cubicles around the same height as your cock where a guy can stick his cock through to be sucked or a guy can back up against the hole to be fucked.

Playroom/Dungeon: this may be a large room or open area which will have a range of equipment, like bondage points, fuck benches and slings. Some are open spaces, others are private rooms that can be booked in advance.

Sling room: a sling room is just that, a room with a sling in it. The bottom lies on his back in the sling with his feet up.

Porn Lounge: this is where porn is played on the big screen and they usually have lounges or benches to sit on. This is also a great place to start your visit to a venue, see who else is around, to get in the mood or just chill out.



Tips for first timers

Some of the easiest things to do when you arrive at a venue that you are not familiar with is to check the layout of the venue, see what facilities are around or even ask the staff what is on offer.

Each venue is different in terms of how people engage with each other, whether it's through speaking and/or through subtle, and sometimes not so subtle, body movements or gestures. When guys communicate using non-verbal ways for negotiating whether they are both interested in having sex with each other, it's called cruising.

How to cruise Part 1: Learn the rules

No means No

This is the most important rule. You have the right to say no to anything you don't want to do or are uncomfortable with. You also must respect others right to say no to you. If someone says no or stop at any time during sex then you must stop. People who are unconscious or heavily intoxicated cannot give consent. Never fuck a person who is unconscious. The easiest way to check in with someone is to simply ask, 'you okay?' or 'want to keep going?' and wait for a verbal confirmation or a nodding of the head indicating yes.

Keep it nice

It can make for an awkward situation to have someone come onto you aggressively that you're not into, and embarrassing to be rejected publicly. So being polite and respectful means no one needs to be embarrassed and you can continue looking for what you're after.

Wait to be invited

No one likes their party crashed and it's the same when it comes to cruising. Look for non-verbal signals such as prolonged eye contact or someone lightly brushing passed you and looking back. If you get a positive response, you are good to go. Grabbing someone's cock without being invited is just unwanted groping, and if you continue to grab people aggressively without their non-verbal permission or after being told to stop or if your hand is knocked away then you may end up being kicked out and banned from the venue.

Good manners

Hogging equipment without using it, blocking corridors, standing in the doorway of the last available cubicle, talking loudly in the spa or cruising areas, persistently cruising someone once they have said no, all can prevent others from enjoying their time at a venue. Be considerate of others so everyone has a good time.



How to cruise Part 2: Let's get to the action

Cruising is the way to let someone know you're interested without talking, by using body language. Signs that indicate that someone is interested can include looking back over his shoulder as they pass you, extended or frequent eye contact, rubbing their crotch, smiling or nodding towards you, gentle touching you when walking past, standing closer or motioning you towards a cubicle or play space.

To say 'no' to someone or letting someone know you aren't interested: Break eye contact, look in the other direction, move out of their line of sight or walk the other way. Moving their hand away politely if they touch you and even shaking your head indicating no can work, but remember to be polite.

Aggression

SOPVs are generally very safe, and the staff are there to look after you and make sure you have a good time. Guys might get upset about being rejected, may be under the influence, tired, or just being jerks. If you're concerned about the behaviour of someone in the venue who may be violent or aggressive, speak to the staff.

Drugs and alcohol: Common Sense

Guys might head to a SOPV after a big night out, or might score some gear to use while they're playing to

enhance or extend the fun they are having. Ecstasy or MDMA, meth, GHB, poppers, and erectile dysfunction drugs can increase pleasure and make you closer to someone – especially if you're playing with strangers. If you're planning on heading to a SOPV after a big night of drinking, remember that the venue is a business and won't be able to admit you if you are intoxicated, or may let you in under the agreement that you don't have any more to drink so that you can wind down before heading home. Many venues will have a zero tolerance policy around drug use in their venue, and will generally make this clear upon entry.

Drugs and alcohol: Safety

If you're taking anything to keep your session going harder or longer there are a few things you probably shouldn't mix. If you take a Cialis or Viagra (or Erectile dysfunction drugs) be sure to keep well clear of poppers. Check out 'ENHANCED FUN' on downanddirty.org If you're taking G, it doesn't play well with alcohol, so it's a good idea to do one or the other and not both. If you're somewhere with a steam room or sauna, make sure to keep the water up – and time your doses!

For more information on G and safety go to touchbase.org.au



Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

If you're fucking at an SOPV, or anywhere at all, you need to think about HIV and other STIs. Condoms will do a good job at protecting you from some but not all, so a good testing regime will ensure that your sexual health is sorted. The best way to keep yourself covered is to keep up your regular HIV & STI screening, and use the tools that work for you – condoms, PrEP, UVL, or PEP.

Condoms: many people still choose to use condoms to avoid HIV and reduce the risk of getting other STIs. Many venues will provide condoms and lube, but some venues, such as adult cinemas may not. If you aren't sure if a venue you are visiting provides condoms and lube, and you want to use them, it's a good idea to take your own.

PrEP: is a powerful tool to prevent HIV. A daily oral pill will ensure that no matter what you decide to do once you step into the sauna or sling that you're protected from HIV. You can also use PrEP On-Demand. To find out more about how PrEP can protect you and what is involved, then head to thorneharbour.org/prep

PEP: If think you may have been exposed to HIV, you can access PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis). PEP is a month long course of medication that may prevent HIV infection after a possible exposure. The sooner someone starts PEP the better, but it must be started

within 72 hours after a possible exposure to HIV. For more information head to [\[LINK\]](#)

UVL: a person who is HIV-positive and on highly effective treatment, is very often able to maintain an undetectable viral load or UVL. Being on effective treatment means a healthier and longer life. In addition, having an UVL means that it is impossible for a positive guy to pass on HIV when he is fucking, even without condoms. Currently, having an UVL is the most effective way of preventing HIV transmission. For more information head to downanddirty.org/fucking

Undetectable = untransmittable. U=U.

PEP, PrEP and UVL will only protect you against HIV – not other STIs. Regardless of what prevention methods are right for you, it's a good idea to be regularly checked for STIs so that they can be diagnosed and treated. In this way you are caring for yourself and others.

Outreach: many clubs will have a regular roster of times when health services (like Thorne Harbour Health's Outreach team) will pop into the club to offer advice, free rapid HIV testing, and loop you into some great services. Check with the club you frequent. Head to downanddirty.org for a list of which SOPVs have outreach at what times.



For more information: visit downanddirty.org

Additional resources:

Emen8: emen8.com.au

PAN: pan.org.au

PrEP'D For Change: prepdforchange.org

Thorne Harbour Health: thorneharbour.org

GLLO LGBTI Liaison Officers: downanddirty.org

Touchbase: touchbase.org

Thank you:

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Wet On Wellington: wetonwellington.com.au

**And a big thank you to all
the models!**



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