

## Making Your Own White Canes for Disability Awareness Learning

The canes used by the unsighted are normally white. This universal coloring serves as an indicator to the sighted that the cane user is vision-impaired or totally unsighted. These canes often have a red lower section and a handle grip of some kind. Authentic canes may be purchased [available from Quill.com - <https://goo.gl/QC8IPJ>] or alternatively, inexpensive homemade facsimile canes may be constructed as follows.

### Materials needed for each cane:

- 4' length of ½" diameter wooden dowel stick (for use with smaller children, a 3' length may be substituted)
- bright white satin finish acrylic craft paint
- bright red satin finish acrylic craft paint
- ½" black electrical tape (or black duct tape, cut to ½")

### Instructions:

1. Paint the dowel stick white, allow to dry. Two coats are recommended.
2. After white paint has dried, paint 8" of one end of the dowel red (7" if using 3' dowel). Allow to dry. Again, two coats are recommended.
3. After paint has dried thoroughly, wrap the ½" wide black tape around the dowel where the red and white colors meet. This is the bottom of the cane.
4. At the opposite end of dowel, cover the flat end with black tape, and wrap black tape around to create a handle. This is best done by holding the tape at a slight angle and spiraling the wrap down the stick for about 9" (8" if using 3' dowel). While wrapping, leave about ½' gap between tape. At the 9" mark, wrap the tape around the stick at a straight horizontal twice and cut tape, pressing tight to secure tape onto dowel.

