



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
Donate to Wikipedia

Interaction
Help
About Wikipedia
Community portal
Recent changes
Contact Wikipedia

Toolbox

Print/export

Languages
Deutsch
Español
Français
Gàidhlig
Simple English

Article **Talk**

Read **View source** **View history**

Search

Faggot (slang)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Faggot](#) and [Fag](#).

Faggot, often shortened to ***fag***, is a **pejorative** term and common slur used chiefly in **North America** against **homosexual** males.^[3] Its pejorative use, broadly meaning a "repellent male",^[4] has spread from the United States to varying extents elsewhere in the **English-speaking world** through mass culture, including movies, music, and the Internet.

Contents [hide]

- Etymology
 - Unsubstantiated associations
- Use in Britain
- Early printed use
- Usage in popular culture
 - Theater
 - Books and magazines
 - Music
 - Television and newsmedia
- Bibliography
- See also
- References
- External links

Etymology

The word meaning "bundle of sticks" is ultimately derived, via **Old French**, **Italian** and **Vulgar Latin**, from **Latin** *fascis* (also the origin of the word *fascism*).^[5] The origins of the word as an offensive epithet for homosexuals are, however, rather obscure, although the word has been used in English since the late 16th century as an abusive term for women, particularly old women,^[6] and reference to homosexuality may derive from this,^{[5][7]} as female terms are often used with reference to homosexual or effeminate men (cf. *nancy*, *sissy*, *queen*). The application of the term to old women is possibly a shortening of the term "faggot-gatherer", applied in the 19th century to people, especially older widows, who made a meagre living by gathering and selling firewood.^[7] It may also derive from the sense of "something awkward to be carried" (compare the use of the word "baggage" as a pejorative term for old people in general).^[5] Use of the word as a general insult, not necessarily implying homosexuality, is either a continuation or extension of this older usage^[6] or of the homosexual usage.



A Volkswagen Beetle ("Bug") owner in response to *fag* graffiti spray-painted on her car christened it "The Fagbug" and embarked on a trans-American road trip to raise awareness of homophobia and LGBT rights that was documented in a film of the same name.^{[1][2]}