

SVG Accessibility Checklist

SVG Accessibility & WCAG 2.2 Guidelines

About This Document

This reference accompanies the article: SVG Accessibility & WCAG 2.2 Guidelines

Read the full article at: <https://svgeneration.com/docs/svg-accessibility-wcag>

Article Summary

Making SVG patterns accessible: contrast requirements, screen reader considerations, and motion sensitivity guidelines.

Decorative vs Informative SVG

Background patterns are decorative they carry no information. For CSS background-image SVG patterns, no ARIA attributes are needed because the browser doesn't expose CSS background images to the accessibility tree. The pattern is invisible to screen readers by design. This is correct behaviour.

Contrast Ratio Requirements

WCAG 2.2 Success Criterion 1.4.3 requires a 4.5:1 contrast ratio between text and its background. When text overlays a pattern, you must ensure sufficient contrast at every point in the pattern tile. Measure contrast at both the lightest and darkest region of the tile. If the pattern has too much variation, add a semi-transparent overlay between the pattern and the text.

The Text Overlay Problem

Patterns with high local contrast (e.g., alternating black and white elements) are particularly problematic for overlaid text. A white text on a black stripe reads fine, but the same white text on an adjacent white stripe is invisible. Solutions: (1) reduce pattern contrast, (2) add a translucent backdrop to text containers, (3) avoid placing text directly on high-contrast patterns.

Free Resources

Visit SVGeneration.com for 600 free SVG background patterns. No attribution required.

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