

About Graffiti

- Graffiti decreases a resident's feeling of safety in a community. Neighborhoods with graffiti see a decrease in property values and loss of business growth and tourism. Graffiti sends a message that nobody cares, which attracts other forms of crime and street delinquency to the neighborhood.
- Although the financial costs of graffiti vandalism have not been thoroughly documented in the U.S. it is estimated to be in the billions.
- Immediate removal - within 24-48 hours - is the key to successful graffiti prevention. Rapid removal has been the most effective factor in battling reoccurrence.
- It is a common misconception that most graffiti is created by gangs. According to most statistical studies gangs are responsible for an estimated 10% of graffiti.
- Graffiti vandals represent every social, ethnic and economic background. Suburban males commit approximately 50% of graffiti vandalism from pre-teen to early 20s.
- The average age of those arrested for graffiti vandalism is 12-21.



Community Health
and Safety Section
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The Lynnwood Police Department's fully stocked Graffiti Removal Unit van helps our team to remove graffiti efficiently throughout the city.

Tip Sheet

GRAFFITI

- Facts
- FAQ
- Reporting
- Removal



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GRAFFITI

What you can do about it!



4 Types of Graffiti

TAGGING (Can be gang or non gang related).

A "tag" is the graffiti vandal's moniker applied quickly and repetitively. Tagger graffiti is generally for the purpose of fame, rebellion, self-expression, and power. Gang graffiti is used to mark gang territory, list members, or send warnings to rivals. It may include letters, symbols, or numbers known only by gangs and law enforcement.

THROW-UP

is a more elaborate tag, usually done in two or more colors. Vandals often use balloon letters, which are filled in or left as outlines.

PIECES

"Pieces," short for "masterpieces," are large, detailed drawings. They are colorful, can include cartoon-like characters, and may take an hour or more to complete.

HATE/SATANIC GRAFFITI

Hate graffiti depicts any racial, religious, or cultural slur.

3 Steps You Can Take

CALL - Call 911 if you find graffiti on your property. An officer will take a report and photograph the damage.

REMOVE - Studies show that removal of graffiti within 24-48 hours reduces a recurrence considerably.

RECORD - To aid prosecution and restitution be sure to document the estimates and costs of surface restoration. Over \$250 is a felony.

Remember:

The vandal's objective is to have others see his/her "tag" or "name". Vandals are drawn to walls that are not cleaned immediately because it means their graffiti will be up longer and seen by more people. By covering the graffiti as soon as possible, you prevent your property from becoming a "known" site among vandals.