

Graffiti

Ways to prevent graffiti:

- ✓ **On-going Upkeep** – Make every effort to keep the appearance of your property clean and neat. Employ graffiti resistant materials or coatings on a chronically hit wall. Litter, broken fences, overgrown landscaping and poor lighting sends a message to vandals that the property owners are not attentive and don't care.
- ✓ **Rapid Removal** – Rapid and continual removal of graffiti is the best way for businesses and commercial property owners to protect the image of their street and preserve customers' sense of security. Studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.
- ✓ **Control Access** – Incorporate shrubs, thorny plants, and vines to restrict vandal access. Add or improve lighting around the building to promote natural surveillance. Use non-solid fencing, controlled entrance and exits, rails and other barriers that discourage through traffic. Limit access to roofs by moving dumpsters away from walls and covering drainpipes to prevent vandals from scaling them.
- ✓ **Step Up Security** – Install some type of security camera. Organize a "Business Watch" with nearby merchants to keep tabs on a business area. Businesses may want to employ security personnel to monitor property. Don't allow a "legal wall", or an area that permits graffiti, at your business, they are largely ineffective and may draw more graffiti vandals to the area. Employ graffiti resistant materials or coatings on a chronically hit wall.

What Should a Homeowner, Association or Business do if it's hit with Graffiti?

1. Report it. Contact the Gwinnett County Police Department to report graffiti vandalism using the non-emergency number 770-513-5000.
2. Identify. Work with local authorities to identify if the graffiti is being done by taggers or gangs. Check with law enforcement about safety concerns when removing gang graffiti.
3. Document. Take a picture of the graffiti before it is removed. Photographs will assist law enforcement in their investigation.
4. Remove graffiti promptly and completely.

How Should Graffiti be removed?

- ✓ Paint out – on painted surfaces, painting over graffiti is a low-cost removal method. A patchwork or paint or a large block of different color paint is an ideal canvas and will invite more graffiti.
- ✓ Chemical Removal – this method employs some type of solvent to remove graffiti.
- ✓ Power washing – this removes graffiti by applying water, usually hot, under pressure. Power washing may also be used after applying a paint solvent to the graffiti area. An abrasive, such as baking soda or fine sand may also be added to the water to remove a thin layer of the surface, and with it, the graffiti. Power washing is not recommended for all surfaces.

List of supplies available on the market for removing or preventing graffiti:

Graffiti Stripper, Block Guard

Graffiti Stop All-Purpose Liquid Sealant

Scrubs Graffiti and Spray Paint Removal Towels

Vandalism Mark Remover

Professionals Choice Products: Elephant Snot, Shadow Max, Smooth Max, Safe Max and Maxall

New Dimensions “Disappear” Organic Graffiti/Adhesive Remover