Graffiti: The difference between art and vandalism is permission.

**REMEDIATION TIPS**

- **Plain Tip:** Using a high-pressure washer with a wide nozzle, power-wash the area with water. Use a high-pressure washer to remove graffiti from metal and other hard surfaces.

- **Aluminum Siding:** Paint remover, rinse with water, dry, and paint new.

- **Stucco:** Use a pressure washer with a wide nozzle to remove graffiti from stucco. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

- **Wood:** Use a pressure washer to remove graffiti from wood. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

- **Metal:** Use a chemical stripper to remove graffiti from metal surfaces. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

**OILY SURFACES**

- **Lime:** Use a pressure washer with a wide nozzle to remove graffiti from lime. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

- **Aluminum:** Use a chemical stripper to remove graffiti from aluminum surfaces. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

**GLASS SURFACES**

- **Laminate:** Use a pressure washer with a wide nozzle to remove graffiti from laminate. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

**MASONRY SURFACES**

- **Concrete:** Use a pressure washer with a wide nozzle to remove graffiti from concrete. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

**PLASTIC SURFACES**

- **Vinyl:** Use a pressure washer with a wide nozzle to remove graffiti from vinyl. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

**WOOD SURFACES**

- **Wood:** Use a pressure washer with a wide nozzle to remove graffiti from wood. Rinse with water and let dry, then paint new.

**REMOVAL STEPS**

1. Get permission from the property owner.
2. Try using a matching color paint or release/permission form and ask for a property owner.
3. Clean all graffiti to be painted.
4. Protect the ground from paint drips using a drop cloth or cardboard.
5. Square up your work. Cover graffiti with a neutral color like gray, white, or beige.
6. May be available for your clean-up volunteers, paint, and supplies.

**REPORT IT**

If you see graffiti anywhere in the City, report it. To report graffiti in progress, call 9-1-1.

To report graffiti on private property, tool parking meters, bridges, mailboxes, etc., report vandalism with the city's 311 line. Graffiti removal is a public safety issue.

**Effects**

- **Graffiti**

  - Messy and unsightly
  - Can be expensive to remove
  - Can damage property
  - Can reduce property values
  - Can create a perception of blight

- **Ligatures**

  - Can be dangerous
  - Can lead to suicide
  - Can cause injuries
  - Can require specialized equipment

Graffiti erases the message and more. It sends the message that crime pays. Graffiti also increases fear of gang and criminal activity.
GRAFFITI FACTS
- Graffiti creates an atmosphere of indifference that appeals to criminal activity.
- To prevent graffiti it should be cleaned up within 24–48 hours to show that property owners care.
- The majority of graffiti is created by male adolescents, between the ages of 12 and 19.
- Cleaning up graffiti diverts money from city budgets that could be used for roads, parks, etc.
- Graffiti is the most common type of property vandalism.

TAGGING NEUTRALIZATION TEAM
The Tagging Neutralization Team (TNT) is a group of Volunteers in Police Services. They remove graffiti on a weekly basis and can assist you in your clean up efforts.

It is everyone's responsibility to keep our community free from graffiti. Volunteers, paint and supplies may be available for your clean up efforts.

CONTACTS
Report graffiti in progress, call 9-1-1
To report existing graffiti, call 253-856-GRAF (4723)
For more information, call 253-856-5851 or visit www.kentgraffiti.com