

# EFFECTS

Graffiti creates a perception of blight and increases fear of gang and criminal activity.

Lingering graffiti attracts more graffiti and more crime. It sends the message that crime may be tolerated. Areas with graffiti have a higher crime rate than areas that are kept clean.

Removal within 24–48 hours is key to successful graffiti prevention.

Property owners can take back their neighborhoods by helping to clean up graffiti.

# REPORT IT

To report graffiti in progress, call **9-1-1**.

If you spot graffiti anywhere in the City of Kent, call **253-856-GRAF (4723)**.

Report graffiti on public property including street signs, in parks, on retaining walls, traffic control boxes, parking meters, bridges, mailboxes, etc. Report graffiti on private property, too!

# PAINT IT OUT

Any effort to remove graffiti makes a BIG difference. Remove graffiti immediately and work with your neighbors to ensure that your community remains clean.

# PAINT-OUT STEPS

1. Get property owner permission! Call **253-856-GRAF (4723)** and ask for a property owner release/permission form.
2. Try to use matching color paint or a neutral color like gray, white, or beige.
3. Clean all surfaces to be painted.
4. Protect the ground from paint drips using a drop cloth or cardboard.
5. Square up your work. Cover graffiti in the shape of a square.
6. Volunteers, paint, and supplies may be available for your clean up efforts.

# REMOVAL TIPS

## Metal Surfaces:

- Try common paint thinner or light penetrating oil
- Try using steel wool or light sandpaper
- If graffiti still remains, try power washing it

## Wood Surfaces:

- If wood is not weathered and is sealed, try using mineral spirits. Don't use this technique on weathered wood
- Power wash being careful not to drive the paint deeper into the wood

## Plastic Surfaces:

- Wipe with light, penetrating oil
- Use ultra-fine steel or bronze wool

## Masonry Surfaces:

- Pressure wash (don't use a narrow tip because it might etch the masonry surface.)
- Sand blast keeping the tip moving over the graffiti area

## Glass Surfaces:

- Scrape with a razor blade in a holder held at a 30 degree angle
- Use ultra-fine bronze wool with water
- Use paint thinner

## Other Surfaces:

- Aluminum siding: Paint remover, rinse
- Stucco: Paint remover and rinse with a pressure washer.
- Vinyl siding: Chemical solvents sparingly

## 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.

# Graffiti

# PAINT OUT

**effects of graffiti**  
**how to discourage it**  
**what to do about it**

## 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](http://www.kentgraffiti.com)

**City of Kent  
Graffiti Removal  
Program**

