

Graffiti Information

**Graffiti Hotline
604-233-3307**



What is graffiti?

Graffiti is any inscription, word, figure, mark or design that is written, marked, etched, scratched, drawn or painted on any city-owned or private property.

What is wrong with graffiti?

Placement of graffiti on another person's property, without their consent, is a crime and labelled as a type of vandalism called "mischief" under the Criminal Code of Canada.

The City of Richmond, in its local Unsightly Premises Bylaw, prohibits the placement of graffiti and requires its removal.

Who is the victim?

Private property owners pay for the graffiti removal out of their own pocket. Taxpayers pay for the graffiti removal on public property indirectly through annual property taxes. The community liveability suffers through the reduced pride and beauty of neighbourhoods.

Who is responsible for graffiti removal and prevention?

Ultimately, the Property Owner is responsible, although in some instances, a tenant or occupant of a property could be responsible.

Who assists the community in the reporting and removal of graffiti?

The City, through its Graffiti Hotline at 604-233-3307, is taking the lead role in coordinating the reporting and removal of graffiti on both private and city-owned properties. Everyone is encouraged to report graffiti.

The City has set a 24 hour removal goal for its properties. City staff are proactive in their reporting of graffiti and coordinate the removal with other public sector agencies.

Tips on graffiti removal

The removal of graffiti can sometimes be difficult with the need to consider the type of:

- surface you are working with;
- product(s) or technique(s) required for the removal or covering of graffiti; and
- product(s) available to aid in the removal of any future graffiti.

Help is available through:

- the hiring of a professional graffiti removal company; or
- your local home improvement centre.

Several common removal techniques are suggested if the circumstances warrant such. They are:

- using graffiti removal products;
- painting over the graffiti; or
- replacing the item.

Tips on graffiti prevention

- Remove the graffiti in a timely fashion and:
 - *deny* the offender any satisfaction in displaying the unwanted message.
 - *reduce* the likelihood of enticing other vandals to do likewise in nearby areas.
- Keep an eye out for suspicious behaviour and call the RCMP through 911 if an act of graffiti is in progress.
- Improve the lighting on your property; by installing motion sensors to switch on lights along alleyways, backs and sides of business buildings; garages; etc.
- Plant vegetation against a building wall so that vandals are deterred from the area.
- Consider "Landscape Securing" the area by using fencing, grade separation(s), a trellis or other architectural features that would get the desired resultthat of keeping graffiti off the property.
- Consider using special paint on surfaces that are susceptible to continued graffiti (for the ease of cleaning).

Produced with the support of:

Goodbye Graffiti

Phone: 604-684-4747

email: goodbyegrffiti@telus.net