

## REMOVAL METHODS

Removing graffiti is the responsibility of property owners and managers (including residents, retailers, utility companies, territorial authorities etc). Choose the most appropriate method for ease of removal.

**Brick and concrete** – sandblasting, pressure washing, painting, buffing/polishing

**Metal** – chemical cleaning, painting, buffing/polishing

**Glass** – chemical cleaning (if marked), buffing/polishing, replace (if etched)

**Plastic** – chemical cleaning, painting, buffing/polishing

**Wood** – painting, sanding, buffing/polishing



Remove as much of the tag as you can before painting over it – and use a sealer such as Stopstain before the final paint coat to stop traces of the tag discolouring the surface.

## Other removal solutions

A range of graffiti removal solutions are available from most hardware and paint stores. Ideally remove or paint over the graffiti within 24 hours.

## TAKE ACTION

It is important that you report graffiti to your local council, they use this information to track graffiti and the vandals. If you see and graffiti vandalism taking place then call the police on 111.

To report graffiti on Council property – and to find out what to do if it's not on Council property call:

**Wellington City Council customer contact centre**  
**Phone 499 4444**

To find out more about the Council's graffiti removal kits visit **Wellington.govt.nz**

To access a free colour-matching service visit a **Resene colour shop**.

For information on the Government's STOP graffiti strategy go to **justice.govt.nz**

Wellington City Council may also be able to help with applying an anti-graffiti coating at a cost. Please contact Pita King on 499 4444.

*If you see graffiti vandalism in progress, please call the Police on 111.*

PDM/C083745

Clean up  
**graffiti**  
before it  
spreads



*A prevention and removal  
guide for businesses*

**Resene**  
the paint the professionals use

**Absolutely  
POSITIVELY**  
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

# graffiti

Stop it before it spreads

Graffiti vandalism or tagging is the illegal or unauthorised defacing of property, such as buildings, walls, fences or vehicles, with drawings, symbols, etchings or stickers.



Graffiti vandalism



Urban art

It is different from urban art, which refers to drawings, murals or words on property, done with the property owner's consent.

Graffiti or tagging seriously affects people's feelings of safety.

Graffiti vandals or taggers want recognition and see their graffiti or tags as 'ownership' of a space. Reducing their recognition will deter graffiti vandals. This brochure will help you do that. Remember that taggers are persistent so you may need to deal with graffiti repeatedly.

## PREVENTION ADVICE

Graffiti vandals or taggers prefer surfaces that are continuous, smooth, light in colour, easily accessible and highly visible. The following measures will help prevent graffiti and are more effective if used in combination.

### Access

If possible prevent access to the 'canvas' by making it hard to get close to or by removing anything taggers could use to climb or stand on in order to reach the area.

### Lighting

A well-lit area may deter graffiti vandalism, as well as other types of property crime. Sensor lighting is best.



### Paints and coatings

Graffiti vandals usually target light-coloured surfaces so using a dark-coloured paint can reduce the chances of being targeted. A darker colour is also easier to paint over. Some paints or coatings allow a surface to be cleaned easily.

Start with tough, washable paints such as Lumbersider to make any graffiti removal a lot easier.



### Surfaces

Add texture, because graffiti vandals prefer smooth surfaces. This can be done by adding trellis, wire mesh, or a rough textured finish. Tiled or 'mosaic' surfaces are also effective. Note that texture should always be applied in combination with other prevention measures as it can be difficult to remove graffiti from textured surfaces.

### Keep up appearances

Keep your premises clean and tidy – graffiti vandals like easy targets so send them the message that you don't tolerate neglect and vandalism. If the taggers keep returning, keep on top of the problem by removing the vandalism every time it appears – your persistence will pay off.

## REMOVAL ADVICE

Once a property has been targeted by graffiti vandals, the most effective prevention strategy is rapid removal. You should ideally remove or paint over the graffiti within 24 hours.

### Painting

Always have extra paint the same colour as your fences and other painted surfaces available. Paint over any vandalism immediately.