

Tips for Graffiti Prevention

1. Remove graffiti promptly

Rapid removal of graffiti is an effective prevention tool. Studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of recurrence. *The City of Dallas has a FREE graffiti abatement program. Property owners can sign a consent form, which allows volunteers or City employees to paint over graffiti.*

2. Keep up the neighborhood

Make every effort to keep the appearance of a neighborhood clean and neat. Remove litter and trash, fix broken fences, trim landscape, and ensure all lighting is working properly. An exterior appearance that suggests apathy and neglect attracts vandals.

3. Encourage citizen reporting

Call 311 or contact your local Code Compliance representative to make a report. Respond promptly to reports of graffiti vandalism. Educate others about the impact of graffiti vandalism and provide a way for them to report graffiti.

4. Educate Youth

Teach youth about respect of property and the impact their actions have on other people and businesses. Encourage graffiti education and prevention into classroom activities, after school programs, and youth group activities. Make sure to include that graffiti-style writing and art is not illegal, but committing the act of graffiti on any surface without permission is graffiti *crime*.

5. Use an "Adopt-a-Spot" program

Have your neighborhood clean up graffiti in an area they have "adopted". These programs improve awareness and engage citizens in graffiti prevention.

6. Create a paint-brush mural

Use a community mural to restore a wall chronically hit with graffiti. Graffiti vandals rarely tag a paint-brush mural, and they are a great way to get the community involved in graffiti prevention. Murals can involve local artists, youth and community volunteers, and the local paint store, which may be willing to donate paint and brushes.

7. Control Access

Make changes to build-in graffiti prevention:

- Incorporate natural deterrents, such as landscaping. Shrubs, thorny plants and vines will effectively restrict vandal access.
- Install motion-detector sprinklers that will spray the graffiti vandal should s/he approach
- Plan or add lighting to promote natural surveillance.
- Use fences, controlled entrance and exits, rails, and other barriers that discourage through traffic.
- Limit access to roofs by moving dumpsters away from walls, covering drainpipes to prevent vandals from scaling them, and trimming trees near the building.