

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Removing graffiti vandalism is the responsibility of property owners, however, anyone can report acts of graffiti vandalism against public assets or private property. If graffiti vandalism occurs on your property or a property you are responsible for, you should report and remove the graffiti as soon as possible. Take steps to reduce any further graffiti from occurring and take advantage of the resources available to the community from the information provided in this brochure. This will assist you in making your city and district a safer place in which to live and visit.

REPORT

Reporting Graffiti to Police

Graffiti vandalism is an offence under the Summary Offences Act 1981 and if you witness any graffiti vandalism in progress, dial 111 and note down the description of the offender(s), the clothing worn, registration and description of any vehicle and their direction of travel. If you have any information that might help identify offenders contact your local Community Constable, the Whangarei Police or you can pass this information to the Whangarei District Council Community Safety Officer.

If your property is the subject of graffiti vandalism, this should be reported to your local Community Constable or to the Whangarei Police on (09) 430-4500.

Reporting Graffiti to Council

Call the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200 (24hrs) where a customer service operator will log the incident and your request for graffiti removal (if required).

Council D'Tag contractors will endeavour to remove graffiti, but their priority is for graffiti removal that is visible on main arterial routes and Council properties, therefore, private and commercial property owners are encouraged to remove graffiti from their property as soon as it occurs to discourage further graffiti from happening.

Community Workers with the Whangarei Probation Service will also be painting out fences on Council parks, reserves and accessways.

Graffiti Vandalism to Northpower Transformers

All graffiti vandalism occurring on Northpower transformers is to be reported to Northpower directly on Freephone 0800NORTHPOWER (0800 667847) for removal by their certified contractor.

Graffiti Response Partners



CITY SAFE

STOP GRAFFITI

"It's NOT Okay to look the other way"



REPORT • REMOVE
REDUCE • RESOURCE

REMOVE

Before removing any graffiti, you are encouraged to photograph the graffiti and keep the original images for the police, should they require them.

The most effective strategy against graffiti vandalism is to remove it as quickly as possible, preferably, within 24 hours and to persist in removing it. If you are removing graffiti for the first time, try different methods on a small area first to ensure you are not causing more damage. Try, in this order:

- A detergent, such as dishwashing liquid.
- A solvent such as paint thinners, methylated spirits, oven cleaner or branded graffiti removal products. For more information about anti-graffiti coatings go online to www.graffitifree.co.nz.
- Chemical removal can be a particularly effective method of removing permanent markers or removing graffiti from steel surfaces.
- The chemicals in graffiti removal products can be hazardous, so always wear protective clothing including a mask and store out of the reach of children.
- Rid an unpainted wall or fence of graffiti by sanding or waterblasting. Waterblasting is very effective on unpainted surfaces. The smoother the surface the more easily it can be cleaned. On unsealed porous surfaces such as brick, concrete and unpolished stone, even complete removal of graffiti on these surfaces still leaves behind its indelible message. Generally a painted wall is easier to keep graffiti free because any further tags can simply be painted over in the same colour as the original.
- Protect the driveway and footpath from paint drips and spills when painting out tagging.
- If graffiti has been painted over trees, rub the damaged areas with baking soda and rinse off thoroughly with water.
- Carefully store and dispose of paints. Ensure all spray paint cans you use are completely empty before discarding them and make sure any full or partially full ones are kept securely stored.

REDUCING THE RISKS

The following course of action can be taken to reduce the risk of your property being targeted for graffiti vandalism:

- Planting shrubs or other vegetation in front of fences and walls. Species with prickles provide additional protection.
- Painting your wall or fence in dark colours that will cover in one coat, such as brown and green, are most effective but may not be suitable for some surfaces. Unpainted fences act as magnets to taggers.
- Don't throw out any unused fence paint: keep it in case you need to use it again. Keep a small pot of your fence paint and a brush handy for quick touch-ups if needed.
- Consider using an anti-graffiti system, which, once cured, you will be able to quickly clean away graffiti with a Graffiti

Cleaner without damaging the paint finish that will provide defence against graffiti for many years. For more information about anti-graffiti coatings go online to www.graffitifree.co.nz.

- If replacing or building a new boundary wall or fence, make it difficult to graffiti by choosing a style not providing a continuous flat surface, i.e hurricane wire or swimming pool type fences.
- If hiring mini skip bins, request that you receive only graffiti free ones.
- Ensure the area is well lit by installing motion sensor lights that cover the boundary wall or fence.

RESOURCING THE COMMUNITY

- Form a Neighbourhood Support Group in the street with neighbours keeping an eye on each others' properties. Information on how to start Neighbourhood Support can be obtained by telephoning your local Community Constable, the Community Safety Officer at the Whangarei Police Station or by going online to Neighbourhood Support at www.ns.org.nz.
- Form an 'Adopt a Spot' scheme, whereby, a group of residents or local businesses can promptly paint out any tagging appearing in a selected area, such as a bus shelter, walkway or alleyway, as a measure to discourage further graffiti. However, make sure that you have the owner's permission. Participants in the 'Adopt a Spot' scheme can access Resene recycled paint through the Resene PaintWise service to not-for-profit organisations and schools. For further information about this scheme, go online to www.resene.co.nz/paintwise or complete a request form at your Resene ColorShop.
- Consider painting a mural on a communal area being targeted – this often works to deter graffiti and can be a very positive community project. Resene runs a regular Mural Masterpieces competition that assists community groups creating murals – see www.resene.co.nz/murals.htm for details or contact the Community Safety Officer at Council.

- Help the elderly or disabled who have had their property tagged to clean it up or paint over it.
- Cover graffiti with Resene TagCover, which is a custom made range of waterborne satin paints formulated to provide a budget friendly paint system to cover graffiti. Available in a standard colour range in 10L pails. Other sizes and colours are available on request. Minimum quantities may apply. To view the standard colour range go online to www.resene.co.nz/products/antigrffiti.
- Watch for groups acting suspiciously, particularly at night. Most taggers are aged between 10-21 years old. Ring police immediately if you see someone tagging.
- If you know someone involved in graffiti vandalism, inform your local Police.
- The paints, aerosols and marker pens used for graffiti are often acquired by illegal means. The vandal often stores the tools for committing graffiti in their bedroom. Parents should be alert to any unusual number of aerosol spray cans or marker pens in their children's possession. Retailers are reminded that it is an offence to supply spray cans to youths under 18 years of age and they should pay attention to any young person repeatedly purchasing items that could be used for graffiti.