



GRAFFITI PREVENTION

“ People have got to see your tags, man - but you don't want to be seen when you're tagging. Places that are lit up are no good - you'll get busted for sure... I go for places with good, flat walls or fences, and no spiky bushes! I also hate it when there's a lot of human traffic, man - too many people and somebody's going to call the cops.”



Landscaping

Landscaping to create naturally graffiti-resistant surfaces.

A graffiti vandal's preferred surface on private property includes brick walls, sheds and solid fences. These structures provide a perfect flat canvas to display tags and other markings. Therefore covering surfaces with vegetation reduces their suitability for graffiti, as the colour and irregularity of the leaves prevents recognisable markings being created on them. Low maintenance natural fibrous materials like bamboo or brushwood provide graffiti-resistant properties and can be used to cover surfaces quickly.

Landscaping to control access to surfaces.

An alternative to covering a target area with vegetation is to use vegetation as a barrier to prevent offenders reaching the surface. Placing a hedge or other dense vegetation immediately in front of a wall can inhibit access, especially if the plant has natural deterrents such as thorns or spikes. Placement is important, as gaps between the plant and the surface will provide cover for offenders and encourage acts of vandalism.

Landscaping to define ownership of space.

Creating a clear sense of ownership of a space can be an effective deterrent to unauthorised entry. Creating a boundary between public and private space can be as simple as introducing a change of elevation or surface through materials like gravel, brickwork or plant borders. The idea is not to depend on high fences that block surveillance, but to make it clear that the area belongs to the resident and members of the general public should not enter without permission.

Landscaping to maximise natural surveillance.

Natural surveillance increases the likelihood of offenders being seen and also reduces the location being targeted as it is perceived as being more risky. Solutions which combine graffiti resistance and boundary setting characteristics include low hedges (no more than 70cm high) and open rail fences, both which allow visual lines to remain clear.

The location of trees and large shrubs should take into consideration their impact on visibility and opportunities for concealment:

- Dense shrubs should be no more than 70cm high.
- Tree branches should fall no less than 2.4 metres from the ground and should not block sources of light or the view from windows.
- Trees should not provide a natural ladder onto roofs or upper storeys.
- Movement activated or solar-powered lighting can be incorporated into landscaping to provide relatively inexpensive improvements to night surveillance.
- Pebbles (too small to cause damage when thrown) or other noise-producing ground coverings can increase an offender's fear of detection.
- A well maintained yard in itself can reduce vandalism by giving the residence a "cared for" appearance. Showing the property is paid attention to increases the sense of surveillance and reduces offender comfort.

For more information on what to plant visit the Goodbye Graffiti website at www.goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au



Graffiti Prevention

Protective Surfaces and Rapid Removal. Prompt graffiti removal is seen as best-practice in reducing graffiti vandalism as it diminishes the level of recognition and reward achieved by graffiti vandals. Prompt graffiti removal also prevents assets from appearing uncared for and subsequently attracting more vandalism.

The type of material used to damage surfaces (e.g. spray can, marker) and the type of surface damaged (e.g. brick, painted surfaces) will determine the most effective removal method.

Steps to determining the appropriate removal method:

1. Identify the surface (including any protective coatings in place).
2. Identify the substance used for the graffiti (spray paint, marker pens etc).
3. Contact your local council or an appropriate private professional for advice or removal services. Whenever attempting to remove graffiti yourself ensure the necessary safety precautions are followed.

**Contact Goodbye Graffiti for more information on
1800 44 22 55 or www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au**

Lighting

A key element in designing out graffiti is the improvement and maintenance of lighting, and natural and formal surveillance. The aim of lighting and surveillance is to increase the perceived risk of detection when an offender is assessing a target. This is achieved through removing concealment opportunities, creating clear lines of sight and, where appropriate, using security devices. To maximise surveillance, lighting in private gardens:

- Has a lighting visibility range of 15m.
- Is securely placed to prevent lighting being knocked over or removed.
- Has toughened glass or grills surrounding the globe to resist breakage.
- Has the lighting mechanism above arms' reach to impede efforts to cover, break or otherwise disable.
- Has the control switches inside the house to prevent offenders from simply turning off the switch from the outside.
- Does not have nearby trees or structures that cut off or block the lighting field.
- Is not located near buildings or fences in a way that would allow the lighting to be used as a ladder to access points of vulnerability (windows, roofs etc).
- Has an irregular surface to reduce its susceptibility to graffiti.

Report Graffiti via the 1800 442 255 Graffiti Reporting Hotline or the online reporting form at www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au

For further information about designing out crime visit the Goodbye Graffiti website at www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au

For specific advice on the Town's community-assisted graffiti removal service, please contact the Town's Technical Services Administration Officer on 9273 6541