



# REDUCING GRAFFITI AND VANDALISM

There is often a perception in our communities that graffiti and vandalism are an unavoidable nuisance.

Research shows that the presence of graffiti in public spaces relates directly to people feeling unsafe within their own community. Acceptance of the presence of graffiti will not reduce the significance of this issue.

Like many other crime types there are actions that can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of your premises when it comes to graffiti and vandalism. The three key elements are – REPORT, REMOVE, PREVENT.

## Reporting and Removing

If you witness an act of graffiti or vandalism occurring call the Police on 131 444. Graffiti and vandalism in all forms are crimes and should be treated as such. Identifying perpetrators can be very difficult unless they are caught in the act. Reporting to Police assists greatly in the apprehension and charging of offenders. Options for reporting and removing graffiti include:

- Report online at [https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/Remove Graffiti](https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/RemoveGraffiti) – this will send a report to police and to the asset owner for possible clean-up;
- Report by phone to the Goodbye Graffiti Hotline on 1800 44 22 55; and
- To find out who is responsible for cleaning your graffiti, call your local council for advice. If you have to clean it yourself information on how to clean graffiti is available at [https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/Remove Graffiti](https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/RemoveGraffiti)

## Preventing Graffiti

To prevent graffiti from occurring on your property there are a number of methods that are recommended to 'target harden' your property.

### Restrict Access:

- Interrupt blank walls that can be used as a 'canvass' for graffiti with windows, decorative grates, and other similar designs options;

- Install physical barriers such as hedges, thorny plants, shrubs, and/or suitable fencing that restrict access to graffiti targets – examples include rose bushes, bougainvillea, barbed fencing if applicable;
- Remove any 'natural ladders' such as wheelie bins that can be used to gain access. Ensure all access points are secured and doors, windows, and wheelie bins are locked so as not to become the target of graffiti or vandalism; and
- Use grates or bars to prevent access to graffiti and vandalism targets such as display windows.

### Encourage Natural Surveillance:

- Keep perimeter trees and shrubs trimmed and maintained to allow security, passers-by, and community members to have a line of sight in witnessing suspicious activity in and around your premises – vandals will utilise well-hidden locations; and

*This factsheet contains general guidelines for increasing security of your business and/or workplace. No responsibility is accepted for any damage, injury or loss resulting from application of these guidelines.*



- Installation of motion activated lighting and CCTV to allow for improved visibility at night and monitoring of the exterior of your premises.

### Reinforce Your Territory:

- Keep your property and surrounds well maintained and clean as a run-down environment encourages further graffiti and vandalism i.e. broken window theory;
- Use clear signage and gates to alert intruders to the fact they have ventured into private property;
- Practice 'rapid removal' of graffiti. Research shows that the rapid removal of graffiti undermines the purpose of its placement, which is to leave a long-lasting and highly visible 'mark' or 'tag' to gain exposure; and
- The implementation of art projects (urban art or murals) in collaboration with community, schools, LGAs, and local artists on vulnerable assets or in 'hotspot' locations – evidence shows that 'taggers' are less likely to deface existing art.

### Physical Deterrents

Many materials are available to help reduce the impact and reoccurrence of graffiti and vandalism. Contact to the WA Police Graffiti Team through [graffiti@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:graffiti@police.wa.gov.au) or your LGA to find out about:

- Graffiti resistant paint;

- Scratch resistant glass laminate;
- Shatter resistant glass;
- Grates and grills; and
- Other graffiti resistant coatings and products.

For further information about graffiti prevention the WA Police 'Designing out Graffiti' brochure can be downloaded by going to the following link: [https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/Prevent Graffiti](https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/Prevent%20Graffiti)

### The Sale of Graffiti Implements

The sale of graffiti implements to any person under 18 years of age is illegal. Key things to consider regarding the sale and display of graffiti implements include:

- Know the legislation - <https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/Police/Graffiti-and-the-Law>
- Know what 'restricted sale items' are; and
- Strongly consider locked storage displays for graffiti implements.

Important information and guides for download about the sale and storage of graffiti implements, including the current legislation and what constitutes a 'restricted sale item', can be found at the following link: <https://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/Businesses>

For further information please contact the WA Police Graffiti Team via email at [graffiti@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:graffiti@police.wa.gov.au) or by calling 1800 44 22 55.