

Removal Tips

1. Identify the surface type and substance to be removed

Brick, stone concrete, aluminum and vinyl siding, utility boxes and poles, street signs, bus shelters, pavement, wood and glass are just some of the materials that can be defaced with graffiti.

Most graffiti is applied with spray paints, however some graffiti vandals also use markers, adhesives, shoe polish, lip stick, stencils and etching products.

The substance used to apply the graffiti and the length of time the graffiti has been on the surface usually impacts how easily it can be removed—the longer the more difficult.

2. Select a removal method

Each surface requires or responds better to a particular method depending on the substance to be removed.

- Paint-out
- Chemical Removers
- Pressure Washing

3. Apply a Protective Coating

There are two (2) types of protective coatings, sacrificial and non-sacrificial (permanent). Sacrificial coatings are protective, but come off when graffiti is removed and must be reapplied. Non-sacrificial or permanent anti-graffiti coatings are unaffected by the graffiti removal process and remain on the surface.

Except for paint-outs, property owners may need to consult with a graffiti removal service for clean-up.

Removal Information Resources

- About graffiti, tips on removal, graffiti removal chart and list of graffiti removal suppliers
www.graffitihurts.org
- Quick, hands-on removal tips
www.bouldercolorado.gov
- National Park Service (removing graffiti from historic masonry)
www.nps.gov

Removal Assistance

GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

In a collaborative effort, the **LaPorte Police Department** and **Camp Summit Boot Camp** offer a graffiti clean-up program which provides assistance to property owners who have been the target of graffiti vandalism.

The graffiti clean-up program requires the property owner furnish all materials necessary for painting or clean-up, however **Camp Summit Boot Camp** provides supervised *no-cost labor* for the clean-up.

To request assistance with graffiti clean-up contact:

- Camp Summit Community Services Director, John Cosich, at 326-1188 ext. 227

or

- LaPorte Police Department Captain, Julie Smith, at 362-9446 ext.202

GRAFFITI

**FAST FACTS
PREVENTION
LOCAL ORDINANCE
REMOVAL TIPS
REMOVAL ASSISTANCE**



Provided Courtesy of:
LaPorte Police Department
1206 Michigan Av., LaPorte, IN 46350
Ph: (219) 362-9446

A Community Oriented Policing based agency

Fast Facts

- Graffiti is the words, colors, and shapes drawn, painted, or scratched on buildings, overpasses, train cars, desks, and other surfaces.
- Graffiti is CRIMINAL vandalism which defaces public and private property without permission from the owner, costing citizens, businesses, and the City substantial time and money to repair.
- In the State of Indiana graffiti is considered a criminal act of MISCHIEF (IC 35-43-1-2). It can range from a B misdemeanor to a D felony offense, depending on the location vandalized and the dollar amount of damage.
- Graffiti sends the signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency to the neighborhood.
- Graffiti can be a powerful visual symbol of disorder which erodes public safety. It reduces the attractive physical qualities of neighborhoods, and can contribute to a downward spiral of blight and decay. It can also decrease property values, business viability and ultimately tax revenues.
- There are several types of graffiti, including gang, hate, political, and generic (non-threatening messages).
- There are four (4) primary motivating factors for graffiti vandalism: fame, rebellion, self-expression, and power.

- Gang graffiti is used to mark territory, list members, offer drugs or contraband for sale, or send warnings to rivals. It may include letters, symbols, or numbers known only by gangs and law enforcement.



Prevention

- **Keep up the neighborhood**
Make every effort to keep the appearance of the neighborhood clean and neat. Remove litter and trash, fix broken fences, trim landscape, and ensure all lighting is working properly.
- **Report graffiti to law enforcement**
Remember graffiti is criminal vandalism and may contain messages important to public safety.
 - **City of LaPorte**
LaPorte Police Department
362-9446 (non-emergency)
- **Remove graffiti promptly and completely**
Rapid and continual removal of graffiti is the best way for homeowners and business owners to protect their property and preserve the image of their neighborhood. Studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence. Also, work with your city or county to ensure that graffiti is removed rapidly from public areas near or around your residence.

- **Change the environment**
Make changes to build-in graffiti prevention:

- Incorporate natural deterrents, such as landscaping. Shrubs, thorny plants, and vines will effectively restrict vandal access.
- Plan or add lighting to promote natural surveillance.
- Use fences, controlled entrance and exits, rails and other barriers that discourage through traffic.

Local Ordinance

The City of LaPorte has an ordinance that covers graffiti vandalism and requires property owners to promptly remove same.

LAPORTE MUNICIPAL CODE Chapter 10—Buildings and Building Regulations

Article XII Property Maintenance Code Sec. 10-462. Exterior Property Areas

- (h) *Defacement of property.* No person shall willfully or wantonly damage, mutilate or deface any exterior surface of any structure or building on any private or public property by placing thereon any marking, carving or graffiti.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner to restore said surface to an approved state of maintenance and repair.
(Ord. No. 12-99, § 1, 8-16-99)

-**City of LaPorte**
Code Violations Department
362-2327