



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POLICE

## GRAFFITI

Request For Information

Graffiti is ILLEGAL when done on property without consent of the owner. If you have any information about graffiti offenders call

Waroona Police on **9733 7400**

Or

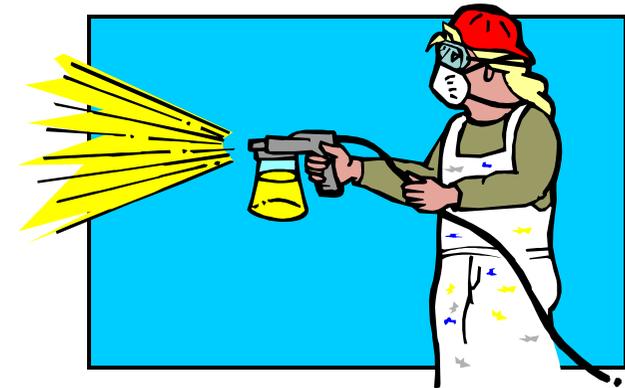
Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**

You may remain anonymous.



# Shire of Waroona

## Targeting Graffiti



52 Hesse Street, Waroona  
(08) 9733 7800  
[www.waroona.wa.gov.au](http://www.waroona.wa.gov.au)

# GRAFFITI VANDALISM IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Marking another person's property without their consent is graffiti vandalism. The removal of graffiti costs our State millions of dollars each year and graffiti offenders will be prosecuted through the courts.

## INCREASED PENALTIES

As part of the State's "Tough on Graffiti" approach as of 1 January 2010, the penalties for acts of graffiti vandalism have increased from twelve (12) months imprisonment to two (2) years with the maximum fine increased from **\$12,000 to \$24,000**.



For resources to help you and your community deal with graffiti vandalism visit  
[www.graffitihurts.com.au](http://www.graffitihurts.com.au)



## Landscaping & Planting:

Plant clinging vegetation such as ivy, to cover and protect walls and other large flat surfaces.



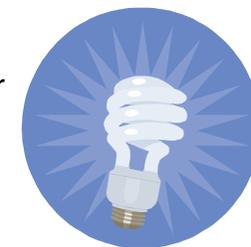
Plant thorny or tick bushes in front of large walls and fences to reduce visibility and access. Natural defences such as thorns and spikes help reinforce vegetation's barrier effect.



Fibrous surface coverings provide a shield against graffiti.

## Lighting:

Graffiti vandalism is often conducted under the cover of darkness, to avoid the risk of getting caught or reported. Therefore a well lit area will discourage graffiti. Increase lighting around your property; use motion detectors to draw attention to movement.



## Murals:

Murals are a proactive strategy in minimising graffiti. Murals can also brighten up a dull area or wall. Business or commercial property owners can commission artists to have the mural designed in a way that promotes the business to the public.

## Painting / Textured Walls:



When painting your property, consider darker colours that are less attractive to graffiti vandals. Textured walls are a deterrent to graffiti writers. Consider texturing outside walls.

## Other:

- Encourage community surveillance through Neighbourhood Watch or Volunteer Groups.
- Increase security patrols or measures.
- Limit access to roofs, remove any climbing opportunities.
- Remove any rocks or objects that are capable of being utilised to scratch.

For more information on prevention strategies please refer to:

[www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au](http://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au) or [www.crimeprevention.wa.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.wa.gov.au) .

## Prevention is the best cure for Graffiti.

Graffiti Vandalism has a significant effect on the feeling of safety and the perceived fear of crime within the community. Graffiti is an expensive and damaging form of vandalism that costs local governments approximately \$260 million dollars a year throughout Australia, which is an average of \$384,000 of rate payers money that could be spent on community projects.

Research has shown that one of the most successful strategies for preventing graffiti is to remove it as soon as possible, and continue to remove it. Graffiti on a wall or building attracts vandalism and more graffiti, which may spread to other areas. When the work of a graffitist is not on display, then the enjoyment from their crime is reduced. It has also been proven that it is a lot easier to remove graffiti when it is done within the first 24hrs.

'Designing out Crime' is a crime prevention strategy which aims to reduce opportunities for crime through the design and management of the built and landscaped environment. It is also known as CPTED (pronounced 'sep-ted'), which is an acronym for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. It is based on the theory that "the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life".

Designing out graffiti is about applying CPTED principles with graffiti reduction in mind. Designing out graffiti can be achieved through landscaping, lighting & surveillance, protective coatings and more.

### Protective Coatings:

Consider applying a protective anti graffiti coating that provides a barrier between your property's surface and the graffiti. There are many companies making graffiti coatings which can be applied to surfaces which are regularly targeted or at risk of being a target for graffiti. Check the local hardware or yellow pages under 'Graffiti Removal'. Graffiti coatings fall into two categories: Permanent (non-sacrificial) and Non-Permanent coatings (sacrificial).

## GRAFFITI: Definition

### WHAT IS GRAFFITI?

The term 'graffiti' comes from the Greek word graphein, which means, 'to write'. Graffiti today generally refers to the illegal defacing of private and public property in the style of words, colours, shapes or scratching on buildings, overpasses, public transport carriages or infrastructure or other surfaces.

It is done without permission and in all State's and Territories throughout Australia, it is against the law.

Graffiti is also unsafe for those who undertake it. Often putting themselves in dangerous positions where harm and even death has occurred.

Graffiti vandalism can take place from a multiple of implements, types and categories these include;

### IMPLEMENTS

**Spray Paint**

**Acid etching**

**Markers / textas**

**Shape objects (keys, knives, rocks etc)**



### TYPES

Graffiti vandalism takes many forms. Some of these forms include:

**Tags**

**Etching**

**Burning**

**Throw-ups**

**Bombing**

**Dripping / Running**

**Stencils**

**Stickers / Postings**

**Pieces**

For information on types of graffiti please refer to Goodbye Graffiti website: [www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au](http://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au) or Graffiti Hurts website: [www.graffitihurts.com.au](http://www.graffitihurts.com.au).

## CATEGORIES

Graffiti vandalism is often categorised under six different headings, these include;

**Hip Hop or Subway style** – So named due to the style the vandal uses made popular by the Hip Hop culture during the 1980's.

**Opportunistic** – These vandals select the location out of impulse on the basis that it is low risk of being caught with low light and/or surveillance.

**Gang** – A group that use vandalism to mark territory, create notoriety, show off their defiance of the law and disrespect to society and a community and to pass messages to other gang members. This can often lead to violence.

**Political & Social** – Politically motivated to degrade others political point of view. (also see Racial & Hate below).

**Commercial** – An emerging problem throughout Australia. Commercial vandalism occurs where a private organisation or company pays a vandal to spray advertising logos onto walkways, building and other infrastructure in order to promote their product. Commercial vandalism is an illegal form of advertising that tries to by-pass normal planning laws.

**Racial & Hate** – The worst form of vandalism where it aims to hurt, vilify or attack a person or group of people due to nationally, colour, beliefs or the group they are associated with.



# GRAFFITI HURTS AUSTRALIA

## EASY GRAFFITI REMOVAL

SURFACE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
<b>TRAFFIC SIGNS</b>	Apply Methylated Spirits	Wipe with a cloth	Wash Off		
<b>STEEL &amp; ALUMINIUM</b>	Apply Methylated Spirits	Scrub or a soft brush	Wash Off		
<b>PLASTIC GARBAGE BINS</b>	Apply Methylated Spirits	Scrub or a soft brush	Wash Off		
<b>PLASTIC PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT</b>	Apply Graffiti Remover	Scrub or a soft brush	Wash Off		
<b>COLORBOND FENCING</b>	Apply Graffiti Remover to small area	A very soft brush	TIME WARNING	Wash Off straight away	Paint over
<b>UNPAINTED BRICK</b>	Apply Graffiti Remover	5 Mins ONLY	Soft brush	Wash Off	Repeat 1-4 until clean
<b>PAINTED BRICK</b>	Colour match paint	Paint over OR...	Apply Methylated Spirits or brush	Wash Off	
<b>TELSTRA, RTA CONTROL BOXES</b>	Apply Methylated Spirits	Wipe with a cloth	Soft brush	Wash Off	
<b>FOOTPATHS, BESSER BRICKS</b>	Apply Methylated Spirits	Or apply Graffiti Remover	Soft brush	Wash Off	
<b>PALING FENCE PAINTED OR UNPAINTED</b>	Colour match paint	Paint over			

## Pressure Washing

Pressure washing equipment uses water or water in combination with a solvent to remove graffiti from a surface. A solvent may first be applied and then the surface is washed with pressurised water. Sometimes a blasting media, such as baking soda, is used to remove graffiti. While pressure washing is effective, it can wear down the surface being treated. Get a list of blast (power wash, etc.) cleaning equipment suppliers, including pressure washers.



### **“GRAFFITI IMPLEMENTS”**

It is unlawful under the WA Criminal Code to sell to a person under 18 years of age spray paint, pens or marker pens or similar implements, that have a tip over 6mm wide, contains a fluid that is not water soluble and can mark a surface. Purchasers may be required to produce proof of age when seeking to buy these items.

## GRAFFITI: REPORTING

Anyone can report acts of graffiti vandalism against public assets, community facilities or private property. If graffiti vandalism occurs on your own property or a property you are responsible for, you should report the incident as soon as possible.

Yes, illegal graffiti is a criminal offence. Council recommends that graffiti is reported.

Please note, you can report anonymously unless you are reporting as a victim. A victim report requires identifying information to aid the police in their enquiries.

Before removing any graffiti you are encouraged to photograph the damage and keep the original images for the police, should they require them. In the event of significant graffiti damage (racist/obscene or large scale) you are urged to contact the State Graffiti Hotline to request Police/forensic attendance.

### Penalties and Legislation

#### New Graffiti laws

On 1 January 2010 it became illegal in Western Australia to sell spray paint and certain marker pens or similar implements to persons under 18 years of age because these items may be used for applying graffiti.

The new laws will compliment the efforts of government agencies, local governments and the community to combat graffiti vandalism by increasing existing penalties to deter offenders and introducing new offences and penalties to prohibit the sale and reduce availability of graffiti implements to minors.

For more information and fact sheets go to;  
[www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/](http://www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/)

## HOW TO REPORT:

- **POLICE**

Waroona Police                    **9733 7400**  
Police Reporting Centre   **131 444**



- **CRIME STOPPERS**

**1800 333 000**

- **STATE GRAFFITI HOTLINE:**

**1800 44 22 55**

Where a customer service operator will complete a incident report form on your behalf with the details you provide. Using this number will enable quicker response time to organise clean-up and removal, and the graffiti hotline operates 24hrs.

**If your information leads to the arrest or caution of an offender, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1000**

- **SHIRE OF WAROONA**

Phone: **9733 7800**

Fax: **9733 1883**

Email: **[cso@waroona.wa.gov.au](mailto:cso@waroona.wa.gov.au)**

or complete the online form, via the Waroona Shire website:

**[www.waroona.wa.gov.au](http://www.waroona.wa.gov.au)** .

**A \$500 reward is offered to persons who report acts of vandalism within the Shire of Waroona. To receive the reward, the report must lead to the successful prosecution of the offending individual.**

**If you have any information that may help the Shire of Waroona phone 9733 7800.**

**If you see acts of vandalism in progress please contact the local police on 9733 7400.**

## Following are the three most common removal methods:

### Paint-out

Paint is used to cover over graffiti on smooth, painted surfaces. It is fairly low cost (ranging from donated paint to 6 cents per square foot), and paint is a relatively safe product compared to removing graffiti with chemical solvents.

### Chemical Removers

Chemical removers vary, but typically the stronger the solvent, the faster it will dissolve or remove paint. In some cases, stronger solvents will require more safety consideration and/or personal protection. A solvent or cleaner that is poorly matched to a particular construction material, however, may create aesthetically unappealing results. Successful product selection is critical.

For small jobs, such as removing spray paint and markers from light poles and utility boxes, use a chemical removal product with a cloth and/or scrubber. Easy and safe one-time use products, similar to a “handi-wipe,” are also available. Larger jobs will require an industrial product and may require professional application.

Chemical removers have the potential to be harmful to workers and to the environment. For information on the environmental impacts of graffiti removal products, obtain a report that lists ingredients, and field tests and rates a dozen of them for performance on various surfaces. Costs are also a consideration.



## **GRAFFITI REMOVAL: HELP**

With advances in technology, graffiti removal can be safe, environmentally friendly and not damage the surface the vandalism has occurred on. To ensure the successful removal of graffiti and to protect surfaces from further graffiti a few things need to be considered:

1. How much graffiti has taken place?
2. Is it a small job that you can undertake or is it best to contact a professional?
3. What surface type and substance was used in the vandalism?
4. If you don't remove it what are the consequences?
5. What is the best way to remove it?
6. Should you apply anti-graffiti coatings to the surface once cleaned?

Depending on the substance to be removed, each surface requires or responds better to a particular method. Use our simple graffiti removal chart for ideas about where to start.

### **1. SELECT A REMOVAL METHOD**

Most graffiti removers are not available at local home improvement, hardware, or paint stores. They are specialty industrial products and are often sold in bulk to local government, industry or professional graffiti removal companies. Graffiti removers that may be sold in retail outlets are likely to be for small clean up tasks. Remember removing the vandalism and protecting your assets is very important.



Office of  
**Crime Prevention**

**Goodbye Graffiti hotline**

**1800 44 22 55**

### **Graffiti Vandalism is a criminal offence**

Marking another person's property without their consent is graffiti vandalism. The removal of graffiti costs our State millions of dollars each year and graffiti offenders will be prosecuted through the courts.

### **The State Graffiti Taskforce**

The Graffiti Taskforce has been established to drive a range of *Tough on Graffiti* initiatives to reduce graffiti in our community. Visit the Goodbye Graffiti website for more information

### **Report graffiti vandalism**

Call the Goodbye Graffiti hotline on 1800 44 22 55 to:

- Report graffiti for clean-up activity;
- Make a police report
- Report a graffiti offence in progress; or
- Provide police with offender-related information.

**Rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest of an offender.**



**For more information visit the Goodbye Graffiti website or contact the Graffiti Team at the Office of Crime Prevention.**

**Office of Crime Prevention**

**Level 5, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000**

**Phone: (08) 9222 9733**

# GRAFFITI: REMOVAL

## Best Practice

Rapid graffiti removal is seen as best-practice in graffiti reduction as it diminishes the level of recognition and reward achieved by graffiti vandals. Prompt graffiti removal also prevents assets from appearing uncared for.

Overall the State Government's approach to managing graffiti vandalism is to encourage the owners of assets to remove graffiti from their assets as soon as possible, with the preferred target being within 48-hours (from the time of reporting), or immediately if the graffiti is racist or obscene.

## Shire of Waroona

Please be aware that the Shire of Waroona is not responsible for the removal of graffiti on private property.

Council can remove Graffiti from Private property at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

Owners of private property requesting the removal of graffiti are required to indemnify the Council against any loss or damage caused by such removal.

Please note that: in accordance with Section 3.25 (Schedule 3.1) of the Local Government Act 1996 the council has the power to remove graffiti from private property that it considers to be unsightly or offensive.



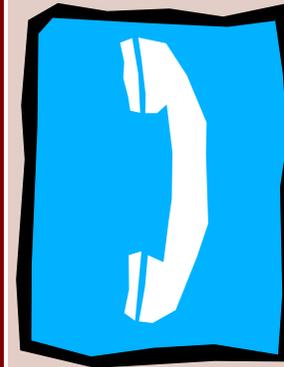
## Before removing any graffiti ask yourself these questions:

- 1) Has the graffiti vandalism been reported to the police, council or organisation that owns the property, if you are not sure – please report it.
- 2) Have you taken a photograph of the graffiti vandalism for your records and the police records. This will help them when a vandal is charged and goes to court, or for your insurance claim (if you lodge a claim).



- 3) Have you taken a photo after the graffiti vandalism is removed? This again is helpful for the police and insurance companies.

These small actions help in the reduction and gaining restitution from vandals once they are caught by law enforcement. It also helps law enforcement gain valuable information in the fight against crime and vandalism in your community.



**If calling the police, please use**

**Waroona Police:**

**9733 7400**

or

**State Graffiti Hotline:**

**1800 44 22 55**

**(The number 000 should only be used in emergencies)**