

Graffiti Prevention Measures

The best way to stop graffiti is to keep it from happening. The following are some tips on how to protect you and your property from being victimized by graffiti:

Fences, Hedges and Plants:

- If you are installing a fence consider staggering the fence posts so there is not a smooth canvas for a vandal to write on.
- Use fences, rails and other barriers to discourage through traffic in areas where graffiti could be an issue.
- Plant a hedge, this will give you privacy and doesn't leave a canvas for a graffiti vandal.
- Put in shrubs, clinging plants such as ivy, or plants with thorns to protect exposed walls. This will break up the writing space and make it harder for vandals to paint the wall.
- Trim trees or bushes that block the public's view of potential targets and vandals.

Lights:

- Install motion-detector lights at the rear of your property; this will make vandals feel exposed but not give them continuous light to work by and can prevent 'show casing' the graffiti.

Paint:

- Talk to your local paint store about applying a transparent coating to make graffiti removal easier.
- When painting, choose paint colours that are darker and keep leftover paint for touch-ups.

Keep up the neighbourhood:

- Keep your property in good repair and free of vandalism. Graffiti and other forms of vandalism left on properties are open invitations for more, not just on your property but on your neighbour's as well.
- If graffiti does appear on your property, try to remove it within 72 hours, this will significantly decrease the chance of it reoccurring.
- Encourage your neighbours to watch for and report graffiti vandals.
- Organize a community graffiti removal project. Bylaw services can help with this initiative, go to www.calgary.ca/animalservices click on Graffiti and Our Services for more information.

If you see graffiti in your community:

- If you see graffiti being applied, call 9-1-1.
- **Record** graffiti that you see in your community.
- **Report** the recorded information to 3-1-1.
- **Remove** the graffiti within 72 hours if it is on your property.
- For more information on record, report and remove graffiti please go to www.calgary.ca/animalservices click on Graffiti.

Preventative measures can go a long way. Not only does prevention keep you and your property from being victimized, but prevention can also increase citizens' sense of safety and pride in their community and city.