



Graffiti Abatement Program

Help Wipe Out Graffiti and Clean Up Crime in Sacramento!



**Phone: 311 or
916-264-5011 outside City limits
Fax: 916-808-7722**

3/2015

Website:
portal.cityofsacramento.org/code

City of
SACRAMENTO
Community Development
CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION



WORKING TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP GRAFFITI

The City of Sacramento is taking action to wipe out graffiti and clean up crime. Code Compliance and the Police Department work together to promote the Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP) to keep our neighborhoods clean and beautiful.

GAP partners with Sacramento citizens to remove graffiti from private and public property. You can help.

- Record-Report-Remove graffiti when you see it (read more inside).
- Get involved with your neighborhood association to help resolve the problem. (Visit www.cityofsacramento.org/ns to find your neighborhood association.)
- Become a GAP volunteer and organize your neighbors to help. For more information, call 808-3951 or 808-8096.
- Get involved in a Neighborhood Watch Program by contacting the Police Department.

The City of Sacramento Code Compliance Division's Graffiti Abatement Program includes graffiti removal programs, educational outreach, community involvement and police enforcement.

GAP helps maintain and improve the quality of our community by:

- Enforcing anti-graffiti ordinances and laws through intervention and dissuasion programs.
- Educating the community about preventing and removing graffiti.
- Giving residents the power to improve their neighborhoods by instilling neighborhood pride.

The City's Code Compliance Division maintains and promotes safe, desirable living and working environments for all Sacramento neighborhoods. We enforce city ordinances relating to health, safety, zoning, vehicles and certain nuisances. The department helps to maintain and improve our community by:

- Administering an enforcement program to correct violations of municipal codes and land use requirements.
- Partnering with residents, neighborhood associations and public agencies to develop public outreach, provide education and encourage voluntary compliance with city ordinances.

JOIN THE FIGHT

You can join your fellow Sacramento neighbors, association members and business owners to rid Sacramento of graffiti and crime.

Step 1: Record

If you see a graffiti crime in progress, please contact the Sacramento Police Department immediately at 911 or 732-0100. Please provide a complete description of the perpetrators and/or vehicles involved, including license plate numbers.

NEVER APPROACH OR CONFRONT THE VANDALS YOURSELF.



Photograph the graffiti using a color camera (film or digital). On the back of each photograph, write your name, date and detailed description of the location of the graffiti. Mail the photos to Sacramento Police Department, Attention: Graffiti, 5770 Freeport Boulevard, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95822.

Please keep copies of each photograph for your personal records. Photographs help the police identify local graffiti hot spots. We forward gang-related graffiti to the Gang Unit, 441-4264, for identification and intelligence purposes.

Step 2: Report



Graffiti vandalism is a crime. Report graffiti to the police before you remove it. Call the Sacramento Police Department's non-emergency number at 264-5471.

Step 3: Remove



Property and business owners understand that promptly removing graffiti reduces the chance of recurrence. Also, the sooner you remove graffiti, the easier it is to clean the damaged surface.

Before you select the best removal method, identify the surface to be cleaned and the materials the vandals used to apply the graffiti. Spray paint, grease pencils, felt-tipped pens, water-based paint, stickers, shoe polish and crayons are the most commonly used materials.

Warning!

Be careful when removing suspected gang-related graffiti. Gang members may take offense at your actions.

1. Work with at least one other person if at all possible.
2. The best time to remove suspected gang-related graffiti is during early daylight hours.
3. If you feel your safety is at risk, record and report the graffiti to the Sacramento Police Department, but do not attempt to remove it yourself.

Choose a Removal Method

First, try using soap, water and a soft brush. If that doesn't work, use a removal product that is appropriate for the application method and surface (refer to the chart in this brochure). In many instances, you can clean graffiti by using a removal product rather than painting over it. Removing graffiti is easier than painting over it and eliminates the difficulty of matching paint.

Locate Removal Supplies

Removal materials are inexpensive, portable and easy to use. Most are non-toxic and available through GAP, which offers:

- Removal supplies that citizens can check out and use free of charge.
- A computerized paint-matching service to city residents and businesses on a one-time basis.

Call City of Sacramento Code Compliance Division at 808-8096 for more information.

Several local paint stores offer discounts to citizens involved with GAP, including:

- Clarke's Coating Paints & Supplies
- Dunn-Edwards Paints & Wallcoverings
- Kelly Moore Paint Co.
- ICI Paints

Do Not Paint These Surfaces

Report graffiti found on these surfaces. If you are unsure whether or not you should paint over or remove graffiti from a surface, contact the City of Sacramento Code Compliance Division at 808-3951 for assistance.

- Postal boxes
- Traffic signal boxes
- Light poles
- Fire alarm boxes
- Telephone booths
- Dumpsters
- Red brick (unpainted)
- Newspaper boxes
- Meters – parking, gas or water
- Bus shelters and benches
- SMUD boxes



Caution!

If you use chemicals, follow manufacturer's instructions and wear proper protective equipment. Some removers may damage certain painted surfaces.

Graffiti Removal at a Glance

Surface	Method of Graffiti	Removal Method
Painted wood or metal	Pens	Denatured alcohol or Safety Two!™
Painted wood, concrete or metal	Spray paint	Denatured alcohol or repaint
Traffic signal boxes	Any	Safety Two™
Unpainted concrete, stucco or aggregate	Pens or spray paint	Safety Two™, then water under pressure with a brush
Glass or plastic	Pens, spray paint or stickers	Window scraper, then denatured alcohol

Did You KNOW?

- If a trail of photographic evidence is tied to a vandal who has been caught, police can use the evidence to present a strong prosecutable case.
- About 30 percent of graffiti in the City of Sacramento is gang-related.
- The annual cost to eliminate graffiti in the Sacramento area is over \$1.5 million.

Correcting Violations

The City of Sacramento strictly enforces code Title 8 Sections 8.04.360 and 8.24.040 which mandate the removal of graffiti from private property. Violators of code Title 8 Section 8.04.360 or 8.24.040 are given the opportunity to voluntarily comply with the law and correct the situation within a reasonable time period. If the violator does not act in accordance with the Compliance Order in the specified time, the city will take corrective action to remedy the problem.

For more information or to report code violations, call 311 or 916-264-5011 outside city limits. You can also report code violations by visiting our website, portal.cityofsacramento.org/code.