



Graffiti is on the increase in Manukau City, particularly in residential areas. Left alone, it may fast become an epidemic in your neighbourhood.

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Government has developed a nation-wide approach to combat graffiti vandalism- the Stop Tagging Our Place (Stop) strategy. The strategy includes a range of legislative, strategic and operational responses to address graffiti vandalism, under the themes of prevention, management and enforcement.

Enforcement involves action taken on graffiti-related offences set down in the Summary Offences Act 1981(as amended by the Summary Offences(Tagging and Graffiti Vandalism)Amendment Act 2008) and the Crimes Act 1961.Under Crimes act under section intentional damage one can be charged with penalties of prison term up to 7 years

Access to these Acts is available at

Summary Offences (Tagging and Graffiti Vandalism) Amendment Act 2008

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2008/0043/latest/DLM1151807.html>

Crimes Act 1961

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1961/0043/latest/DLM327382.html>

WHAT YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF

- Spray paint cans will not be accessible to customers in shop.
- Retailers can not sell spray paint cans to people less than 18 years of age under any circumstances.
- Customer may need to produce evidence of age documentation in order to buy spray paint.

MANAGEMENT

You don't need to put up with it. Follow the three R's of graffiti management and you will help Manukau City and the Police to stamp it out for good!

RECORD

Defacing property is a criminal offence and the Police are as keen as you are to catch the offenders but they

need good evidence. Record the graffiti or 'tag' by taking a photograph of it or by drawing it. If you see the offender, write down your description of him or her.

REPORT

If your property is attacked, report it to the Police. The Police will prosecute offenders caught. Your photograph or drawing of the graffiti or 'tag' will help. Many local police stations keep 'tag' books to hold information such as yours to build a picture of the tags and taggers over time.

REMOVE

The sooner the graffiti is removed, the better the chance is of preventing future attacks. What taggers are looking for is long-term exposure, with minimum effort. Frustrate their efforts and they will soon stop. Also, the sooner the graffiti is removed, the easier it is to get rid of. Taggers generally use dark coloured, oil-based spray paints or felt pen markers which will leave a stain or shadow if left too long.

TIPS FOR PROTECTION

The following tips may help you and your neighbours to protect your properties from graffiti:

- Form a 'paint-out' group in your neighbourhood
- Remove graffiti as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours
- Seek advice from your community constable
- Plant shrubs or a tree against walls or fences exposed to taggers
- Form or join your local Neighbourhood Watch Group and become involved in local initiatives to protect areas targeted by taggers
- Consider painting a mural on a communal area being targeted - it has worked to deter graffiti in other areas and could become a community project.
- Protect exposed walls and fences with a graffiti protection product. Check the Yellow Pages for suppliers.

GUIDE TO REMOVING GRAFFITI

How you tackle the graffiti on your property will depend

on the material used by taggers (usually oil-based spray paint or felt-tip pen) If you are removing graffiti for the first time, try different methods on a small test area first. Check, before you proceed to a larger area, that the removal method is not causing more damage. Try, in this order, a detergent such as dish-washing liquid, A solvent such as paint thinner or methylated spirits, Dark coloured paint, to cover the graffiti.

PAINTED SURFACES

Usually it is simplest to paint over the graffiti. Before painting, try to remove most of the graffiti using detergent or a solvent.

NATURAL SURFACES HARD SURFACES:

Apply solvent to surfaces such as concrete, rock, stone, or hard or protected timber.
Then scrub, sand, water blast or sandblast the graffiti.

SOFT SURFACES:

The methods described above can cause considerable damage to soft, porous surfaces such as sandstone, slate and soft or unprotected timber. Try using detergents and softly scrub. If this is not successful, seek professional advice.

PROTECTION FROM GRAFFITI

Graffiti protection coatings are painted on top of natural or painted surfaces to form a protective shield. Graffiti will stick to the protective coat instead of the normal surface. Many different products are available and are usually either clear or sacrificial coats. Clear coat is a long-life, hardened cover similar to a clear varnish or paint, from which the graffiti can be wiped. Sacrificial coats are totally or partially removed with the graffiti. Before purchasing a graffiti protection coating, we suggest you consider the cost and what product best suits your situation. You may require professional advice.

Warning: The manufacturers' directions should be observed when working with solvents, chemicals or machinery. Normal safety procedures should be followed. If you are removing graffiti for the first time, try different methods on a small test area first. Check, before you proceed to a larger area, that the removal method is not causing more damage.

REPORTING GRAFFITI

If you want to report graffiti in the Manukau City area call us on 262 5104 (24 hours, 7 days).

This information sheet is about Graffiti. It reflects the Summary Offences Act 2008 and Crime Act 1961 but does not replace these.

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