

More Tips for Graffiti Prevention

- Keep up the neighborhood: keep your neighborhood clean, remove litter and trash, fix broken fences. The appearance of neglect attracts vandals.
- Remove graffiti promptly. Data shows that removal within 24-48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of recurrence.
- Report sightings of graffiti as soon as possible: **Call (661) 32-ERASE** for removal in the Bakersfield area or fill out the online form at: www.co.kern.ca.us/gsd/graffitiremoval/
- Enforce anti-graffiti laws: law enforcement dedicated to tracking and apprehending graffiti vandals is a strong deterrent.
- Educate Youth: make sure kids know how graffiti effects the entire community.



Graffiti Resistance

There are many surfaces that are less prone to graffiti. These include:

- Textured surfaces, such as stucco, are less likely to be tagged, as they are less attractive to vandals.
- Dark or colorful surfaces are avoided, as they are not a good canvas for graffiti.
- Surfaces with extra coatings that can be easily power-washed off (with the graffiti) and reapplied.

Mission Statement

The Kern County Sheriff's Office is committed to work in partnership with our community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Kern County through professional public safety services.



Helpful Sites:

www.graffitihurts.org

www.co.kern.ca.us/gsd/graffitiremoval/

www.co.kern.ca.us/sheriff

To Contact the Kern County Sheriff's Office:

Emergency: **9-1-1**

Non-Emergency: **(661)861-3110**

Non-Emergency (Outlying Areas):

1-800-861-3110

Sheriff's Report Desk (Bakersfield only):

(661)391-7471

Crime Prevention Unit: **(661)392-6914**

TEXT-A-TIP: KERNSHERIFF to 888777

WWW.NIXLE.COM

Graffiti Prevention



**KEEPING
KERN COUNTY
BEAUTIFUL**

This brochure is a publication of the Kern County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
(661) 391-7559
crimeprevention@kernsheriff.com

What is Graffiti?

Graffiti is words, colors, and shapes painted or scratched on buildings, overpasses, train cars, desks, and other surfaces. It's done without permission and is against the law. Graffiti sends the signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency. Fortunately, there are things we can all do to eliminate and prevent graffiti in our area.

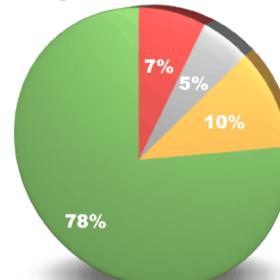
Graffiti Facts and Figures

- Graffiti cleanup takes a big chunk out of city and county budgets. In 2008, the estimated annual cost of graffiti removal was \$8 billion..
- Graffiti is the most common type of vandalism, and is against the law.
- Graffiti increases instances of crime and delinquency in a given area.
- There are four motivating factors for graffiti vandalism: fame, rebellion, self-expression, and power.
- There are four types of graffiti: hip-hop (tagging), gang, hate, and generic ("Bobby loves Suzy" or "Class of 2007").
- 52% of public high schools and 47% of middle schools reported incidents of vandalism during the 1996-1997 school years.
- 36% of students have seen hate-related graffiti.



Who does Graffiti?

- About 80% of graffiti is hip hop or "tagger" graffiti.
- Nationally, only 10% of graffiti is gang related.
- Most studies show the majority of "taggers" are males between 12 and 21 years old.
- Approximately 15% of graffiti vandals are young females.



How Graffiti Hurts the Community

- Graffiti can hurt everyone: homeowners, communities, businesses, schools, and you.
- Graffiti reduces retail sales and property values.
- People feel less safe in their homes and communities in areas where graffiti is tolerated.
- The cost of graffiti removal in the U.S. rises each year.
- Graffiti removal is estimated to cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

Prevention

The following is a list of 10 things you can do to help eliminate and prevent graffiti in your area:

- Get Educated. Learn about graffiti, how it impacts your community, and who is responsible for graffiti prevention and clean-up in your area.
- Report graffiti to the appropriate authorities, you can do this by calling 32-ERASE.
- Local paint dealers are often willing to donate paint and brushes for volunteers to use for graffiti clean up.
- Plan a mural to cover a wall plagued with graffiti; community murals are rarely defaced by graffiti artists.
- Coordinate a graffiti awareness campaign at your school or in the community.
- Make a presentation on graffiti prevention to your school class or neighborhood group.
- "Adopt a Wall" in your school or community and make sure it stays clean and free of graffiti.
- Plant trees or other greenery near a graffiti-plagued wall, to reduce accessibility and visibility. Taggers are less likely to tag where no one will see it.
- Install lighting in areas that are dark and often hit with graffiti.
- Volunteer to help keep your community clean.

