

REPORTING GRAFFITI



If you are the victim of graffiti, report it immediately by calling 911. A police officer will take a report documenting the property damage. The officer may take a picture of the damage to see if similar graffiti has been reported in the area. Photos of graffiti are shared with a web-based, non-profit organization that serves the law enforcement community. This photo database has proven to be helpful in successfully prosecuting graffiti cases.

Once the graffiti has been reported and police have responded to the scene, remove the graffiti as soon as possible.



9-1-1

9-1-1

for emergency dispatch



SETTING THE
STANDARD
FOR
CIVIC PRIDE
AND
QUALITY OF LIFE



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CITY OF PLYMOUTH
3400 PLYMOUTH BOULEVARD
PLYMOUTH, MN 55447
763-509-5000

Graffiti



PREVENTING
GRAFFITI
IN OUR
COMMUNITY



PLYMOUTH POLICE
DEPARTMENT

TEL. 763-509-5160





GRAFFITI IS A CRIME

Graffiti is a costly crime—the cost of removal and repair can be staggering. The cost of doing nothing, however, is far greater.

At one time, graffiti was a problem associated with larger cities. In more recent years, graffiti has spread to suburbs, small towns and rural areas. Because vandals like to mark surfaces where their peers will recognize their “tags,” they do most of their damage where they live and play.

Crime often increases in neighborhoods where graffiti is allowed to proliferate. Graffiti left untouched creates blight and encourages littering, loitering, and more graffiti. If left on surfaces too long, perpetrators assume the neighborhood will tolerate more graffiti.



TYPES OF GRAFFITI

There are three basic types of graffiti. The most common type is simple vandalism. Vandals spray paint, draw, or otherwise deface property—usually just for fun.

The second type of graffiti is called “tagging.” Taggers feel they gain recognition and status from their peers

by placing “tags” in as many places as possible or by painting highly stylized “pieces.” Taggers consider their work to be art. In reality, graffiti is vandalism.

The final type of graffiti is gang graffiti. This is a much less common form of graffiti in Plymouth. Gang graffiti is designed to promote a gang, mark a territory, recruit new members or intimidate. It may include letters, symbols or numbers known only by gangs or law enforcement. Gang graffiti is used to convey messages to other gangs.



BE PROACTIVE

♦ Teach your children responsibility, pride in community, respect for themselves, as well as respect for their environment and the property of others. They must know that graffiti is not a form of art—it is a crime.

- ♦ Report suspicious behavior to the police. If you see someone writing graffiti, call 911 immediately!
- ♦ If you know of someone who engages in this form of vandalism, contact the Plymouth Police Department.
- ♦ If you are the victim of graffiti, after it is reported remove it!
- ♦ Plant vegetation to protect walls and other large, flat surfaces.
- ♦ Increase lighting around your property.

- ♦ Organize a neighborhood watch on your block. Focus on graffiti clean-up and prevention efforts.



REMOVAL TIPS

If you are a victim of someone placing graffiti on your property, you are responsible for removal. Removal guidelines vary based on the type of surface damaged.

Painted Surfaces

The following pertains to painted wood, painted concrete and painted stucco:

Apply a stain-killing primer or pigmented shellac. This will keep the graffiti from bleeding through fresh paint.

Repaint the surface with a color that closely matches the original surface.

Unpainted Surfaces

Brick, cement, concrete, stone, stucco or aluminum siding are more difficult surfaces for the removal of graffiti. For best results, consult a paint expert. They can also tell you what type of removal product would be best given the type of surface that has been damaged. Additional information can be found on several websites.

