



Reporting, preventing, and removing graffiti vandalism



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www.upperhuttcity.com/graffiti

REPORTING GRAFFITI VANDALISM

Graffiti vandalism (including tagging, etching or otherwise marking property without lawful authority or property owner consent) is a crime and should be reported to the Police.

**If you see graffiti vandalism in action
call 111 and report it to Police.**

If graffiti vandalism has already happened, report it via:

- The crime reporting line (04) 381 2000
- Or anonymously through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111



COUNCIL'S ROLE IN GRAFFITI VANDALISM PREVENTION AND REMOVAL

Council demonstrates leadership in the prevention and removal of graffiti vandalism by:

- Leading and supporting graffiti vandalism prevention and clean-up projects
- Promptly removing graffiti vandalism from Council assets
- Promptly removing graffiti from specific areas in the city identified in the Upper Hutt City Council Graffiti Removal Policy

Council also provides:

- 10L buckets of grey, green, brown or off-white paint (at no cost) to property owners affected by graffiti vandalism to paint over graffiti vandalism on their own property
- Guidance and support on how to prevent graffiti vandalism
- Guidance and support on best-practice removal of graffiti vandalism



Upper Hutt City Council's Graffiti Removal Policy can be found at www.upperhuttcity.com/graffiti or call (04) 527 2169 to access a hard copy.

TEN STRATEGIES TO PREVENT GRAFFITI VANDALISM

1. If your property has been graffiti vandalised, rapid removal (every time) is the best form of graffiti prevention.
2. Paint surfaces dark colours (graffiti vandalism shows up better on light coloured surfaces).
3. Plant shrubbery/climbers along fence lines to make your property less accessible and visually less appealing to vandals.
4. Increase visibility at night by installing lighting. Motion sensors are a popular choice as they only activate when a person approaches. Solar-powered options make this an increasingly affordable option.
5. Where possible, divide large surface areas into smaller panels, like slatted fences. It visually reduces a graffiti vandal's canvas, making it less likely to become a target.
6. Get to know the people in your neighbourhood.
7. Join or start a local Neighbourhood Support Group—call (04) 527 2351.
8. Join Upper Hutt Community Patrol www.uhcp.org.nz
9. Work with your community to beautify graffiti prone areas, for example murals, plantings, clean-ups of historic graffiti vandalism, sharing information about how to report, clean, and prevent graffiti vandalism.
10. Love your rear facing fencing and walls (fencing and walls that back onto accessways, carparks or open space can become a target when they look like they aren't cared for).

REMOVING GRAFFITI VANDALISM

You must obtain permission from the property owner before you attempt to remove graffiti vandalism from any surface. If you are unsure who the property owner is, contact Upper Hutt City Council on (04) 527 2169.

Rapid removal of graffiti vandalism is proven to be the best way to combat graffiti vandals. It demonstrates that graffiti vandalism will not be tolerated. To deter vandals and for ease of removal, try to remove graffiti vandalism within 24 hours.

Depending on your surface type, effective removal methods could include:

- Sanding
- Water blasting
- Paint stripper
- Graffiti removal products (available at hardware stores)
- Detergent
- Painting over the area affected (use clean lines and match the original colour as closely as possible or consider painting the whole area rather than 'patching')

When using equipment and products, always comply with manufacturer's use and safety directions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should I report graffiti vandalism to the Police?

Yes. Graffiti vandalism is a crime, it should be reported to the Police.

Will Council remove graffiti from my property?

In some instances.

Go to www.upperhuttcity.com/graffiti or call (04) 527 2169 to find out if Council will remove graffiti vandalism from your property.

Should I report graffiti vandalism to Council for removal?

When graffiti is on a Council owned asset or within the Upper Hutt City Council Graffiti Policy priority zone it should be reported to Council for removal.

Options for reporting include:

- Call: (04) 527 2169
- Online: upperhuttcity.com/report-a-problem
- Use the free iCouncil app (iOS only) available at the iTunes Store

How can I report graffiti vandalism on utilities such as power poles and utility boxes?

Graffiti vandalism on Chorus cabinets, call 0800 222 638.

Graffiti vandalism on all other private utility assets, call (04) 527 2169.

Do I need permission to remove graffiti vandalism from other people's property such as lamp posts, alleyway fencing and trees?

Yes, you need to obtain permission from the property owner to remove graffiti vandalism from anything that is not your own. If you don't know who the property owner is, contact Council on (04) 527 2169.