

Did You *Know*?

If a trail of photographic evidence is tied to a vandal who has been caught, police may be able to use the evidence to present a stronger prosecutable case.

Never

Never approach or confront the graffiti vandals yourself.

Do Not Paint These Surfaces

Report graffiti found on all surfaces, but you should never remove graffiti from the following:

- Postal Boxes
- Traffic Signal Boxes
- Light Poles
- Fire alarm boxes
- Dumpsters
- Unpainted Red Brick
- Newspaper boxes
- Meters—parking, gas or water
- Bus Shelters and benches

Place
Stamp
Here



Paint Over Graffiti Program

901 North Monroe #322

Spokane, WA, 99223

Phone: 509.835.4517

Fax: 509.835.4596



Paint Over Graffiti Program

The City of Spokane's Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.) actively assists citizens of Spokane in their efforts to build community and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

The C.O.P.S. Paint Over Graffiti (P.O.G.) program works with concerned neighbors, business owners, and the Spokane Police Department to report, identify and remove graffiti from private and public spaces.

DON'T GIVE UP COVER IT UP

Prevent Report Remove

- **Preventing** Graffiti reduces citizen fear and improves business patronization and restores community pride.
- **Reporting** graffiti to Crime Check and photographing the vandalism, aids in tracking and prosecution of graffiti vandals.
- **Rapid Removal** reduces the chance of a reoccurrence on your property

www.spokanecops.org/pog.html

GRAFFITI HURTS EVERYONE

Graffiti, whether “gang-related” or “generic”, has a negative effect on a resident’s feeling of safety in their neighborhood. Graffiti creates a perception (whether factual or not) that crime is on the rise and gangs are moving into the area.

When graffiti is left indefinitely, its sends a signal that people do not care, which in turn attracts other forms of crime and delinquency to the neighborhood.

Graffiti drains tax dollars and funds that could and should be used for schools, roads, parks and other community needs. Instead that money is used to clean graffiti.

FREE PAINT OVER ASSISTANCE

The P.O.G. program offers **FREE** cover up assistance for qualified residents and property owners. Please call the P.O.G. program coordinator at 835-4517 to see if your property meets certain program criteria.

SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION

If your community or volunteer group is interested in learning more about graffiti prevention, and awareness, please contact P.O.G. by calling 835-4517 to schedule a presentation. Please make your request at least two weeks in advance.

Graffiti Prevention Tips

- **Paint over graffiti immediately.**
A tagged wall is ten times more likely to be tagged than a clean wall. A patched over wall is three times more likely to be vandalized than a completely painted wall.
- **Plant Barberry, Pyracantha, or any other thorny ornamental plants that can present a barrier in front of frequently tagged walls.**
- **Install motion activated lights in dark areas that may be prone to vandalism.**
- **Know your neighbors and be aware of activity in your neighborhood.**
- **Talk to your children about the consequences vandalism and property damage. Remember that parents of children involved with graffiti can be held financially liable.**

For more information about this

program contact:

Paint Over Graffiti

835-4517

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What can the public do to help?

In Progress Graffiti Calls

If you see graffiti in progress, dial 911. Do NOT approach those involved in what you believe to be criminal activity. Stay on the line with 911.

Pre-Existing Graffiti

Anyone can report a graffiti location by calling Crime Check at **456-2233**.

Q. Who is responsible for removing graffiti?

The Spokane Municipal Code #34365 sec. 3 requires any person owning or in control of property with graffiti remove it within 10 days of being notified.

Q. Does graffiti on my property mean I have gangs in my neighborhood?

Not necessarily. Street Gangs use graffiti to communicate. However, statistically they are responsible for only about 10-15% of the reported graffiti in Spokane.

Q. What should I use to cover up graffiti on my property ?

Use latex paint. It is less expensive and easier to clean up. Before painting be sure to try to clean the surface of any dirt or grease. Also if the cover up paint is light and the graffiti is dark, you may want to use a stain blocker first.

To Report Graffiti Call

Crime Check 456-2233

If you see graffiti in progress

Call 9-1-1