



Code Compliance
Services

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Prompt removal of graffiti is the most effective means to prevent its recurrence.

Vandals who mark structures with graffiti are often motivated by a need to have their work seen. If their work is quickly removed, it provides less of an incentive to do it again at the same location.

**Shoreline Municipal Code
SMC 9.10.530
Revised Code of WA
9A.48.090
Property Maintenance Code
Section 302.9**

05/2009

Note: This handout is for informational use only and is not to be substituted for any Shoreline Codes or Ordinances.

GRAFFITI

Graffiti is a widespread issue that every community is confronted with, however, there are steps that can be taken to stop and prevent vandalism from reoccurring.

There are several different types of graffiti including:

- Tags- Scrawled signatures, often written with a felt tip marker or spray paint.
- Throw-ups-Larger names, often written in bubble or block letters and filled in with colors.
- Pieces-Short for masterpieces, these are murals which may include not only the creator's "street" name, but also background designs and additional characters. These take longer to create than tags or throw-ups.

You can help reduce graffiti in our community by following the proven "3 R Method": record, remove and report graffiti vandalism.

Report it!

Graffiti in progress: Call 911 immediately; graffiti is vandalism.

Graffiti on private property: Call 911 to file a police report.

Graffiti on City property: Call (206) 801-2700 to report the location; the City removes graffiti within 48 hours.

Record it!

Record the date, time and location of the graffiti. If the graffiti is on your property, take a photograph if you need one for insurance purposes.

Remove it!

Prompt and persistent removal is the most effective way to prevent graffiti. While this may be difficult, studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of recurrence.

How to prevent graffiti

To prevent graffiti:

- Keep property clean and well maintained.
- Increase lighting around your property.
- Install motion sensitive lighting.
- Plant thick or thorny bushes along walls or grow vines or appropriate vegetation to cover unpainted retaining walls.
- Install a graffiti resistant coating on your walls.

If property is vandalized, prompt and persistent removal is the most effective way to prevent graffiti.