GRAFFITI VANDALSIM

Why You Received This Fact Sheet

Graffiti vandalism (graffiti) has been found on your property. Graffiti can appear on any property, regardless of location or use. If left in place, graffiti often attracts more tagging and can affect the appearance, safety, and upkeep of a property and the surrounding area.

This fact sheet provides practical information to help property owners and occupants:

- Understand what graffiti is
- Take simple steps to reduce the risk of graffiti returning

Using these prevention and maintenance practices can help keep properties clean, well-maintained, and less attractive to vandalism.

Understanding Graffiti

Graffiti is any writing, drawing, symbol, or marking placed on a surface without the owner's permission. It commonly appears as:

- Tags (stylized signatures)
- Words, symbols, or drawings
- Painted, scratched, etched, or marked surfaces
- Markings on walls, doors, fences, garages, and utility structures

Not all street art is graffiti. Artwork or murals created with the property owner's approval may be considered permitted art rather than vandalism.

Why Prompt Removal Matters

Graffiti is often used to mark territory or gain visibility. When it remains visible, it can:

- Encourage repeat tagging
- Attract additional vandalism
- Spread to nearby properties
- Increase clean-up costs over time

Removing graffiti as soon as it is noticed is one of the most effective ways to reduce repeat incidents.

Preventing Graffiti From Returning

Graffiti prevention works best when design, maintenance, and visibility are considered together.

Helpful prevention strategies include:

- Inspect walls, fences, and rear areas regularly
- Repair damaged or peeling surfaces promptly
- Keep areas well-lit, especially at night
- Avoid large blank walls where possible
- Use darker paint colours on exposed surfaces
- Apply anti-graffiti coatings where appropriate
- Plant climbing vines or thorny shrubs along walls and fences
- Consider approved murals or artwork to reduce tagging

Ongoing Property Maintenance
Regular upkeep plays an important role in graffiti prevention.

Good practices include:

- Keeping laneways and entrances clear and visible
- Trimming vegetation that blocks sightlines
- Coordinating prevention efforts with neighbouring properties
- Addressing graffiti quickly before it spreads

Consistent attention can significantly reduce repeated graffiti issues.

Key Takeaway
Preventing graffiti is often easier and less costly than repeated clean-ups. Simple design choices, quick removal, and regular maintenance can greatly reduce the risk of graffiti and help protect both your property and the surrounding community.