

What Can You Do If You Are a Victim of Graffiti?

Unfortunately, the actions of uncaring, inconsiderate, bored individuals cause work, inconvenience and expense for those who care about their property and their community. Graffiti impacts the whole community and requires action from everyone.

Here is what you need to do if graffiti vandalism appears on your property:

- **Record:** Take a photo of the graffiti vandalism as soon as you see it. The photo is critical to successful investigations by the Regina Police Service.
- **Report:** Report all incidents of graffiti damage to your property by calling the Regina Police Service at 306-777-6500. You will be given instructions on how to submit information and the photo. Or go online to reginapolice.ca/resources/graffiti. If you see a graffiti crime in progress, call 911.
- **Remove:** Remove graffiti from your property as quickly as possible. A quick response has been shown to prevent it from reoccurring.

Take Action

- Take measures to prevent graffiti.
- For more information on the City of Regina Graffiti Management Program, to view the bylaw or to share information on incidents of graffiti on City-owned property visit Regina.ca or call 306-777-7000.
- To report graffiti on your property, call the Regina Police Service at 306-777-6500 or go online to reginapolice.ca/resources/graffiti.
- If you see a graffiti crime in progress call 911.
- Anyone who can help the police identify the suspect(s) in graffiti crimes, or any other crime, is asked to:
 - Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
 - Visit reginacrimestoppers.ca
 - Dial *8477 from any SaskTel cellular
 - Text TIP158 and your tip message to CRIMES (274637)



Record.
Report.
Remove.

What is Graffiti?

Regina has a Graffiti Management Program and we need to work together to wipe out graffiti in our community.

The Regina Community Standards Bylaw defines “graffiti” as drawings, inscriptions or writings, however made, on buildings, accessory buildings, dwelling units or structures without the prior written authorization of the owner.

When graffiti appears, this bylaw requires the owners or occupants of the property to remove all graffiti from their premises within a reasonable time limit. Failure to do so could result in legal action, or the City will make arrangements to have the graffiti removed with the associated costs being applied to the property owner’s taxes.

If a property owner does not remove graffiti from their property, offenders are likely to vandalize nearby locations and neighbouring properties causing graffiti to spread across the community.

Graffiti is vandalism, not art.
It’s a crime under the
Criminal Code of Canada to
put graffiti on private property.



Tips for Graffiti Removal & Prevention

Options to Consider

Try the Community Paint Program

Thanks to a partnership with local paint companies, you can purchase discounted paint, chemical removers, brushes, rollers and other clean-up items. They are prepared to provide advice on the appropriate removal technique and products.

Cloverdale Paint
Dulux Paints
General Paint
RONA Home & Garden Regina
Sherwin-Williams

Recycled Paint Program

Free recycled paint can be picked up at any SARCAN location in Regina.

Call a Commercial Graffiti Remover

You can hire a professional to wipe out graffiti from your property. This is especially important when dealing with valuable or sensitive surfaces. Check the Yellow Pages online or in the phone book (under Graffiti Removal) for listings of commercial graffiti removers.

Professional graffiti removal or discussion with paint companies are recommended. They have the expertise to diagnose and recommend the best removal for the situation.

Graffiti Removal Techniques

Bricks, Cement, Concrete – Use extra strength paint remover applied with a wire brush to work into holes and pores of stone. Allow time to activate and rinse with a forceful stream of water from a hose, pressure washer or soda-blaster. If the surface is uniformly flat, a light grit (60) sand paper can remove paint, but will also scratch the surface. Consider using a sealer after removal to close pores and make future removal easier.

Aluminum/Vinyl Siding – Aluminum siding is usually coated or painted. Vinyl siding is made of plastic which can be marred by lacquer thinner-type cleaners. Solvents may work too aggressively and remove the coating as well. Experiment in a small inconspicuous area and then work on the more visible areas. Use paint remover sparingly and carefully. Use a clean rag and keep turning to a clean part of the rag before each wipe. The longer the solvent stays on the surface, the deeper it penetrates. In most cases, you will probably have to repaint.

Fibreglass – Be aware that acetone-based solvents will soften plastics. Use full-strength paint remover and rinse carefully.

Stucco – Due to the multi-faceted surface of stucco, it is impossible to sand off. Use paint remover and follow up with a high-pressure water hose or pressure washer. Use stucco paint and go over the graffiti carefully. Consider using a sealer as a finish coat.

Glass or Plexiglass – Any razor blade can scrape away cured paint on regular glass. For other marks, any solvent can be used. Use the clean rag technique and hold the rag over the graffiti for a moment to let the solvent work. On plexiglass, be careful of lacquer thinner-type solvents as they can attack the surface causing it to fog and smear. Make sure your product is compatible with the type of surface you are cleaning. Rinse thoroughly with water.

Wood – Try working with the solvent list if the marks are new. Most thinners will remove magic markers and acetone will remove day-old spray paint. Use a clean rag and keep using a fresh part on each wipe. On latex or oil-based paint, use a stain-blocking primer for exterior use. After the stain blocker coat has dried, proceed with regular paints, oil or latex. Most oil-based paints are more durable to solvents and could make future clean up easier. Consider a sealer coat after final finish. Avoid using flat paints as they readily absorb pigments from markers and spray paint.

Metal – On any unpainted metal (iron or stainless steel) surface, any solvent can be used. Some polished aluminum surfaces will cloud or oxidize with aggressive cleaners such as lacquer thinner. Use the clean rag technique. If you are unsuccessful, try paint remover.

Etching – Surfaces scratched or scored with sharp objects can only be filled with fillers or the material will have to be replaced. Some new types of glass have replaceable covers or film layers that are cheaper to replace than the etched glass. Automotive body fillers can fill deep gouges and then be repainted. The only other recourse may be to replace the glass.

Prevention Ideas

There are lots of crime prevention ideas that will work effectively to discourage vandals from targeting your property with graffiti.

Consider growing plants along the walls of your property, using anti-graffiti coatings or commissioning an art mural. Murals brighten up the neighbourhood and are highly effective at deterring further graffiti.

Move garbage disposal bins away from walls so the offenders can't vandalize both surfaces in a single act of graffiti.

Contact the City of Regina about graffiti on any neighbouring property so that Bylaw Enforcement staff can get involved and work with the property owner to have the graffiti removed before it becomes a neighbourhood issue. You can also let the City know about graffiti on any City-owned property so that staff can clean it as soon as possible.