



## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS IS TAGGED BY GRAFFITI

### REPORT

If you have suspect information: from either witnessing something or surveillance cameras, contact the police to report the graffiti and request an officer to take a report.

- You can call 911 or the non-emergency number at 253-288-2121.

If you don't have suspect information:

- Report on your mobile device using the YourGOV app (Apple & Android).
- File a report online at [auburnwa.gov/reporting](http://auburnwa.gov/reporting).
- Call the graffiti hotline at 253-931-3048 ext. 7.
- Please be prepared to provide photos of the graffiti.

### REMOVE

Remove graffiti as quickly as possible, ideally within 24-48 hours. If you continue to do this, taggers will get frustrated and move on. Quick removal is considered one of the best ways to combat graffiti.



Community Development & Public Works  
25 W Main Street  
Auburn, WA 98001  
[www.auburnwa.gov](http://www.auburnwa.gov)

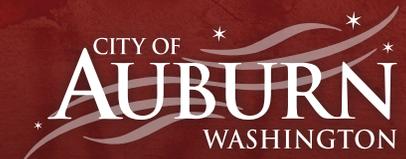
**TAG | Auburn**  
TOGETHER AGAINST GRAFFITI

**STOP**  
GRAFFITI

### GET EDUCATED ABOUT GRAFFITI

This is your community and you CAN make a difference! Please read the following tips about graffiti removal and prevention.

**Help take back your community.**



# STOP GRAFFITI

## GRAFFITI IN AUBURN

If you are a property owner (home or business) you are responsible for removing any graffiti that occurs on your property (Auburn City Code 8.13).

If you see graffiti and believe it is on public property (in a park for example), please report it to Police or using the YOURGov app, downloadable to android or apple devices.

## HOW TO PREVENT GRAFFITI

### BUILD IN PREVENTION

Make it as difficult as possible for the perpetrators to access blank walls

- Plant shrubs or thorny plants along the base of any blank walls.
- Install a trellis and plant some vines to cover large blank walls.
- Add or improve lighting around your home or business.
- Consider installing surveillance cameras and signs informing perpetrators of the surveillance, which may deter anyone looking to deface your property.
- Consider applying a graffiti resistant coating to walls. The coating may allow quick and easy removal of graffiti without the need for repainting, but is not appropriate for all circumstances. Consult a paint store or online sources.

### WORK WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

- If you have surveillance cameras and your building is still tagged by graffiti, please see if your camera caught any footage of the perpetrator. Then make a 911 report and give the footage of the crime to the police department.
- Any information is useful to police. The Auburn Police Department needs as much information as possible to track local crime patterns. PLEASE REPORT GRAFFITI!

### WORK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

- Whether you're a home or business owner, get together with other owners in your area and start a Block Watch. If potential vandals see that someone is consistently watching your properties, they are less likely to consider your home or business an easy target.
- Adopt-a-Spot: get together with your fellow home or business owners and adopt a spot in your area where you all work together to cover any graffiti that may occur as quickly as possible. Local paint stores may be willing to donate supplies or you can all chip in.
- If it is a communal wall in your neighborhood that is being hit, consider working as a group to have a mural painted on the wall. Taggers are less likely to graffiti an already decorated space. They prefer large, blank surfaces.

## HOW TO REMOVE GRAFFITI

### PAINT OVER IT

Try to match colors when possible to maintain the appearance of your property. Well maintained properties show vandals that their damage or vandalism will not be tolerated and will be removed or fixed promptly.

### CHEMICAL REMOVAL

Many hardware or home improvement stores offer graffiti remover. Some solvents can remove graffiti, a citrus based product works best. This is most often done by professionals.

### POWER WASHING

Removes graffiti by applying water, usually hot, under pressure.

## WHAT IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD ANY OF THESE REMOVAL METHODS?

The City of Auburn recognizes that if your property has been tagged, you are the victim of a crime. The City can assist you with some of the costs for paint, contact Code Compliance at 253-931-3020 ext. 4.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are many websites that you can visit to learn more about graffiti, its affects and how to protect your property.

[www.graffitihurts.org](http://www.graffitihurts.org)

[www.auburnwa.gov](http://www.auburnwa.gov) or call Auburn's Code Compliance Officers at 253-931-3020 ext. 4