

Graffiti Removal Techniques

The Wilsonville Public Works Department can provide you with information on how to remove certain types of graffiti. If you are a property owner with graffiti removal questions, please call **503-682-4092**.

The City does not endorse any commercial products, but the names of some products are mentioned herein to help citizens identify the kinds of products that may be useful. Graffiti is always easier to remove as soon as possible after occurrence and before the paint has fully cured.

Painting over Graffiti

If there is a lot of graffiti another option is to paint over it. Try to match the color to the original paint or the color of the unpainted surface as closely as possible. Consider using a graffiti-resistant paint, such as solvent based enamel or a polyurethane coating.

Removing Graffiti

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Painted or Protected Surfaces

These include concrete, wood, metal or other surfaces that has a topcoat to protect it. Public Works staff use a couple of different graffiti removal products one of which comes in an aerosol can called "On Your Mark" graffiti remover. The other is a graffiti remover wipe manufactured by 'ZAP'. These products remove graffiti from dense nonporous surfaces and some painted surfaces.

Bare Masonry Surfaces

These include unpainted brick and concrete. The harder and smoother the surface, the better the chances of removing graffiti without damage or visible change.

City workers use power sanders for graffiti on wood and power wire wheels for graffiti on concrete, brick and other hard but porous surfaces. One can purchase a wire wheel that can be inserted into a power drill at most hardware stores. Power sanders or palm sanders can be purchased in similar stores.

Metal Surfaces

These surfaces are usually easier to clean because the graffiti cannot penetrate as far into the surface.

Try removing the graffiti with a light penetrating oil like “WD-40” or “Three-in-One”. If those don’t work, try turpentine, paint thinner, or fingernail polish remover (acetone). If those don’t work, try oven cleaner or a commercial graffiti remover sold at hardware stores or paint stores, like “Goof-Off”.

Plastic Surfaces

Try removing the graffiti with ordinary household cleaners, like detergent or dishwasher soap. If those don’t work, try rubbing alcohol or WD-40, turpentine or mineral spirits.

Glass Surfaces

The best way to remove graffiti from glass is to scrape it off with a razor blade. First spray the area with glass cleaner and then use a razor blade holder and scrape at a thirty-degree angle to the glass. If some graffiti remains, try rubbing lightly with a plastic pot scrubber.