

# Graffiti is a Crime

To report graffiti, contact  
**Nanaimo RCMP** at  
**250.754.2345.**

If you witness a crime in  
progress, call **911**. Please  
provide the police with the  
location of the crime and a  
description of the offender.

If you prefer to remain  
anonymous, call **Crime  
Stoppers** at **1.800.222.8477.**

For more information on  
graffiti removal, please  
contact  
**THE DOWNTOWN BYLAW  
SERVICES OFFICE AT  
250.755.4468.**



# GRAFFITI

in the city



# What is Graffiti?

Graffiti is NOT an art form. It's a crime. Graffiti vandals write, scribe, etch and paint on any surface. The markings may be signature, drawing or a message.

Common materials used by these people include spray paint, grease pen, felt pen, crayon, water based paint, etching acid, knives and sandpaper.

The thousands of dollars spend to remove graffiti falls on the property owners and taxpayers of our community.

# Why Remove Graffiti?

A neighbourhood plagued by graffiti is unappealing to prospective homeowners and tenants. Graffiti reduces property values. Many people associate graffiti with crime and gangs.

People will choose to live and shop in an area they perceive to be clean and safe over those littered with graffiti. This can contribute to the deterioration of that neighbourhood.

## Prevent Graffiti

- Properties that have good lighting and look occupied are less likely to be the target of graffiti.
- Shrubbery and clinging vines discourage graffiti.
- Remove objects that can aid in access to rooftops, large walls or other target areas.
- Ensure that doors and exterior gates are kept locked.

# Have You Been a Victim?

Remove or paint over graffiti as soon as possible. Graffiti vandals are looking for recognition, and the longer it remains, the more encouraged vandals will be to replace it. Often the graffiti is easier to remove if the clean-up is done quickly. They are also less inclined to redo graffiti knowing it will be removed immediately.

Paint and home improvement stores carry necessary supplies to remove, paint over and resist the application of graffiti.

Check the Yellow Pages for "Graffiti Removal", "Building Cleaners - Exterior" and "Paint Removal".

A graffiti removal kit is also available at no charge from the Community Policing Station located at 18 Victoria Crescent. Please reserve this kit by phoning 250.753.3777.

