
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police Department-(707) 431-3377

Report Graffiti in progress

Community Development Center- 707-431-3346

Report graffiti vandalism, become a volunteer or get program information

Report graffiti in City Parks, City road signs, streets, sidewalks, hydrants, electric utilities, etc

North Bay Corporation -707-586-1478

Report graffiti on graffiti on garbage cans/bins

Cal-Trans- (707) 462-6641

To report graffiti on the freeway, sound walls or highway signs

Sheriffs Department- (707) 565-7397

Report graffiti in County areas

Private Utilities

Gas (PG&E) 800-743-5000

Cable TV (Comcast) (707) 588-5501

Telephone (SBC) (707) 575-2077

WAYS TO DETER GRAFFITI

- Remove graffiti within 24 hours after it appears. The faster it is removed, the less likely it is to return.
- Restore the property to its pre-vandalism appearance. Patchwork jobs only *invite* more graffiti. Do not simply paint over the lines of the graffiti or it will still be legible.
- Consider using darker colors of paint to make graffiti more difficult to see.
- Use graffiti resistant coatings on chronically vandalized surfaces.
- Provide well-maintained landscaping which makes the area inaccessible (ex: thorny shrubs, bushes, or vines). Keep your property clean and cared for.
- Use exterior lighting (ex: motion lights).
- Limit accessibility to high areas and objects vandals can climb on (ex: move dumpsters away from walls and cover drainpipes).
- Control access to your property with fencing and barriers.
- Work with other businesses and neighbors to set up a Neighborhood Watch and look after one another's property.
- Report suspicious behavior and provide police with suspect descriptions.
- You can also anonymously report, someone you believe is participating in gangs by calling 431-3377
- Report "in progress" graffiti to police by calling 431-3377. Report graffiti and document it with a photo.



City of Healdsburg

GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM



Graffiti is detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the community in that it leads to urban blight, encourages gang activity, is detrimental to property values, business opportunities, and the enjoyment of life.....

The City of Healdsburg Police Department takes graffiti and vandalism seriously and offenders are arrested.

City Ordinance 1086 provides restrictions on the possession and sale of graffiti implements and also places the responsibility on private property owners for the removal of graffiti on their property.

As a property owner or occupant it is your responsibility to remove any graffiti from your property. City ordinances are not intended to punish victims but to ensure that neighborhood safety, beauty, and property values are maintained.

City of Healdsburg City Code Section 9.40.70:

“It shall be unlawful and a misdemeanor for any person to cause or permit, any Graffiti to be visible from any real property whether privately or publicly owned, a public street, sidewalk, alley, or other public right-of-way, provided the Graffiti is located on real property or personal property owned, possessed, or within the custody or control of such person” for longer than 5 (five) days.

City of Healdsburg City Code Section 9.40.130:

“Where Graffiti is being abated by the repainting of the surface on which the Graffiti exists, the Property Owner shall use paint that matches (to the greatest degree possible) the color of the original remaining portions of the structure being painted, or as otherwise approved by the City...”



COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Do your part. It is frustrating, time consuming, and disheartening to clean graffiti (especially more than once), but *it is an essential element to an effective anti graffiti strategy*. The faster and more consistently graffiti is removed the more it signifies that an area is being monitored and cared for. It will take a community response to address this problem consistently.



VOLUNTEER GRAFFITI ABATEMENT

Contact the Community Development Center (707) 431-3346 to report graffiti or to become a volunteer. Graffiti on private property is the property owner’s responsibility, but volunteers can assist when possible. Potential assignments may include delivering supplies, organizing special graffiti removal projects, adopting a neighborhood or single location for graffiti removal, or public education.

WARNING SIGNS FOR PARENTS

- If you child is in possession of: spray paint, large marking pens, etching tools, postal delivery stickers etc.
- If your child has paint stains on hands or fingertips, gang involvement drawings, prior arrests for vandalism or possession of graffiti tools.
- Talk to you children about graffiti and the importance of respecting other people’s property. Know their friends and where they are, particularly in the evening.

REMOVAL TIPS

- Methods for removal include painting, sanding, scraping, chemical removers, power washing, sandblasting, and soda blasting.
- When painting, match the color. If the graffiti bleeds through, first use a primer.
- When painting over large structures like fences or walls, consider painting the entire surface so that it is one uniform color and future vandalism can be covered quickly.
- Use scrapers to remove sticker tags from poles, boxes, etc. Chemical removers may be necessary to remove the adhesive backing.
- When using chemical graffiti removers, **ALWAYS** consult the Material Safety Data Sheet for safety precautions including, but not limited to, wearing appropriate safety equipment, knowing the safe exposure limits, and emergency procedures and treatment.
- Avoid letting removers set on the surface to be cleaned for too long.
- Power washing or sand blasting are often used when stone/concrete walls or wood fences have been spray painted
- Power washing, like sanding, can wear down the underlying material, so it is important to remove as little as possible.
- In most cases runoff or particulate matter from sand or power washing is considered an environmental hazard. Do not allow paint-contaminated material to flow into the storm drains, which flow directly to creeks.