

## **Graffiti Removal and Prevention**

By the Long Beach Police Department

### **What** is graffiti?

Graffiti comes in many forms. It can be a person's name or "tag," group or gang name or any combination of written words or symbols. Spray-paint, markers, stickers, glass etchers and acid are some of the ways taggers vandalize property.

### **Why** is graffiti harmful?

- It reduces the value of properties
- It diminishes the quality of life
- It lowers community pride
- It is costly to remove or repair
- It paves the way for more serious crime and neighborhood blight

### **Erase** the problem!

- Remove graffiti immediately. When graffiti is ignored or not removed in a timely manner, it encourages taggers to continue defacing your property. The sooner you cover the tagging, the sooner it stops.
- Form a Graffiti Watch within your neighborhood. Partner with community members and business neighbors to keep a watch on your neighborhood.
- Use anti-graffiti coatings on your property for easier removal of graffiti.
- Use plants such as bougainvillea or creeping ivy to cover property areas such as block walls that may be tempting to graffiti vandals.
- Keep your property well lit. Taggers love to work in darkness. Motion-sensor lights are often good deterrents in problem areas.
- Use cameras to aid in the apprehension of taggers.
- Keep a written log of graffiti incidents and take photos of chronic graffiti problems.
- Move any large vans, cars, garbage cans, or other items that can be used to gain access to the roof.
- **NEVER confront a tagger!** Many taggers may be armed with weapons. Be a good witness and call 911. Provide the police with a detailed description of the person(s) responsible.

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