

Graffiti

A guide for residents



Your guide to:

- dealing with graffiti on your private property
- reporting acts of graffiti you witness
- reporting graffiti on public property
- working with your neighbours to make a difference.

Most of us can recognise graffiti when we see it. Technically, graffiti is the illegal act of marking property without the owner's consent.

Who cleans up?

If the graffiti is on Redland City Council property – Council is responsible for its removal.

For graffiti on other public property – the owner of the asset (such as Energex or Telstra) is responsible.

But if the graffiti is on private property (residential or business) the property owner is responsible for its removal. This being the case, it makes sense to look at some simple preventative measures to save you the job of removal.



Graffiti removal

It is in your best interest to remove graffiti as quickly as possible to deter additional vandalism and limit the admiration vandals receive from their peers, which is often their primary motive.

Persistent rapid removal will eventually prevent new graffiti incidents.

The quickest way to remove graffiti on a painted surface is to paint over it. Try to match the colour to avoid a patchwork effect. It may help to keep a record of your paint colour. If you can't match the colour, paint the whole wall or section.

Chemicals and hot water can be used to remove graffiti from a non-painted surface. Alkaline-based solutions are most effective. Graffiti removal products are available from most hardware stores. Always read the instructions and follow safety precautions.

You can also hire a professional graffiti removal company. Look under *paint removal services* in the Yellow Pages®.



Graffiti reduction strategies

Apply coatings to non-painted surfaces

Anti-graffiti coatings can prevent graffiti from being absorbed, making it easier to clean. Products are available at your local hardware store or paint supplier.



Plant vegetation in front of walls and fences

Most residential graffiti occurs on front fences and walls. Planting in front of fences or walls limits access to and breaks up a solid surface, making it less attractive as a canvass for graffiti. Use low shrubs, hedges or creepers that will cover the surface without creating an entrapment area. Check planning scheme requirements for planting along your front boundary.



Use lighting as a deterrent

Lighting can deter graffiti vandals because you can see them in the act. Sensor lights are most effective.



Vary fence and surface type

Smooth surfaces are most attractive to graffiti vandals. Use a variety of uneven, transparent or textured surfaces to limit the usable areas. For example, a closed-board timber fence is easier to graffiti than a pool type fence.





Reporting graffiti

If you witness vandalism occurring on private or public property, you should report it to the Police. If you find graffiti on your property, take a photograph and report it to the Police.

Contact your nearest Police Station:

Capalaba	3433 3333
Cleveland	3824 9333
Dunwich	3409 6020
Redland Bay	3829 4111

Graffiti on Council property

Graffiti is an ongoing cost to Redland City Council and ratepayers. You can assist us by reporting all graffiti on Council property to 3829 8999 so it can be quickly removed.

Council aims to remove all graffiti in public areas as quickly as possible. Offensive graffiti is given priority.

Graffiti on other property

You can also report graffiti to other asset owners:

Energex	13 12 53
Queensland Rail	1800 643 443
Telstra	180 22 44

(Quote the cabinet number found in the phone box)

Join Neighbourhood Watch to work with your neighbours to make your community safer. Phone the Wynnum Police District Crime Prevention Office on 3131 2180 for details of your local group.



This brochure has been produced with the support of the Department of Communities Graffiti Solutions Program.



For more information about Council's graffiti management and prevention program contact:

Community Safety Officer

Redland City Council

☎ 07 3829 8999

🌐 www.redland.qld.gov.au

