

Tips to Prevent Graffiti on Your Property

Graffiti vandals want their graffiti to be seen, but not be seen while doing it. They like easily-accessible places that look like big, blank canvasses. Help keep your property clean and safe by implementing some or all of these tactics to help deter vandals from tagging your property.



Surveillance and Lighting

- Install dusk-to-dawn or motion lights in hard-to-reach areas that will brightly illuminate when trespassers creep onto your property at night or over the weekend.
- Install video cameras and warning signs that read, "Area monitored 24/7 by video surveillance." Sometimes even "dummy cameras" work when accompanied by signage yet these won't provide evidence to share with the police.

Physical Barriers

- Add fencing, chain-link or metal, to make your building harder to access and the fence difficult to tag. Also avoid horizontal slats which make it easy to climb.
- "Green" your property by adding plants to make accessible walls less desirable to vandals. Thorns are a natural deterrent and climbing ivy would limit visibility of graffiti. Reduce areas that would allow vandals to hide by planting shrubs up against the foundation. Don't leave a wide space between the wall and shrubs.
- Limit access to your roof -- don't use lattice work that would make it easy to climb up the wall. Relocate or bolt down moveable objects such as commercial dumpsters and benches that provide access to your roof, exterior stairs and/or fire escape.

Make Sure Your Property Lets People Know YOU CARE!

- Keep your property neat and tidy. Trimmed lawns, well-kept gardens and litter-free areas help deter vandals from thinking they can "get away with" tagging your property.
- Painting a mural on your wall also helps deter vandals from tagging. (Please note, advertising is signage and requires a City permit but pretty flowers do not.)
- Create a neighborhood watch system. By getting neighboring residents and businesses involved you can work together to share tips and keep an eye out for vandals.
- Remove graffiti as soon as possible. Vandals like their work to "stay displayed." Painting over the graffiti with matching paint, applying a cleaning solvent and scrubbing off or power washing are some of the various methods available to remove graffiti. Be sure to follow all instructions for the products used and your specific surface type. Also, check with a paint professional before applying any anti-graffiti coatings.

Contact the **Citizens' Service Bureau**, (314) 622-4800 or online at www.stlouis-mo.gov/CSB, to see if **Brightside St. Louis**, (314) 772-4646 or www.brightsidestl.org, can help remove your graffiti.