

Tips for Removing Graffiti from Your Property

The most common way to remove graffiti is to paint over it. Using a primer, the correct paint and a sealer usually covers the damage well and prevents bleeding through of the vandal's paint. Sealer can make future removal easier. Using foam brushes that you can throw away is often the best way to paint over rough surfaces.

There are several solvents available that can remove crayon, marking pen, magic marker and spray paint. These need to be used carefully to avoid damaging the surface they are on. We suggest you contact your local hardware or paint store for advice on the proper solvent to use.

The sooner you remove the graffiti, the easier it is and there is a better result overall. An additional benefit of prompt removal is that it discourages additional graffiti and maintains the appearance of your property and neighborhood.

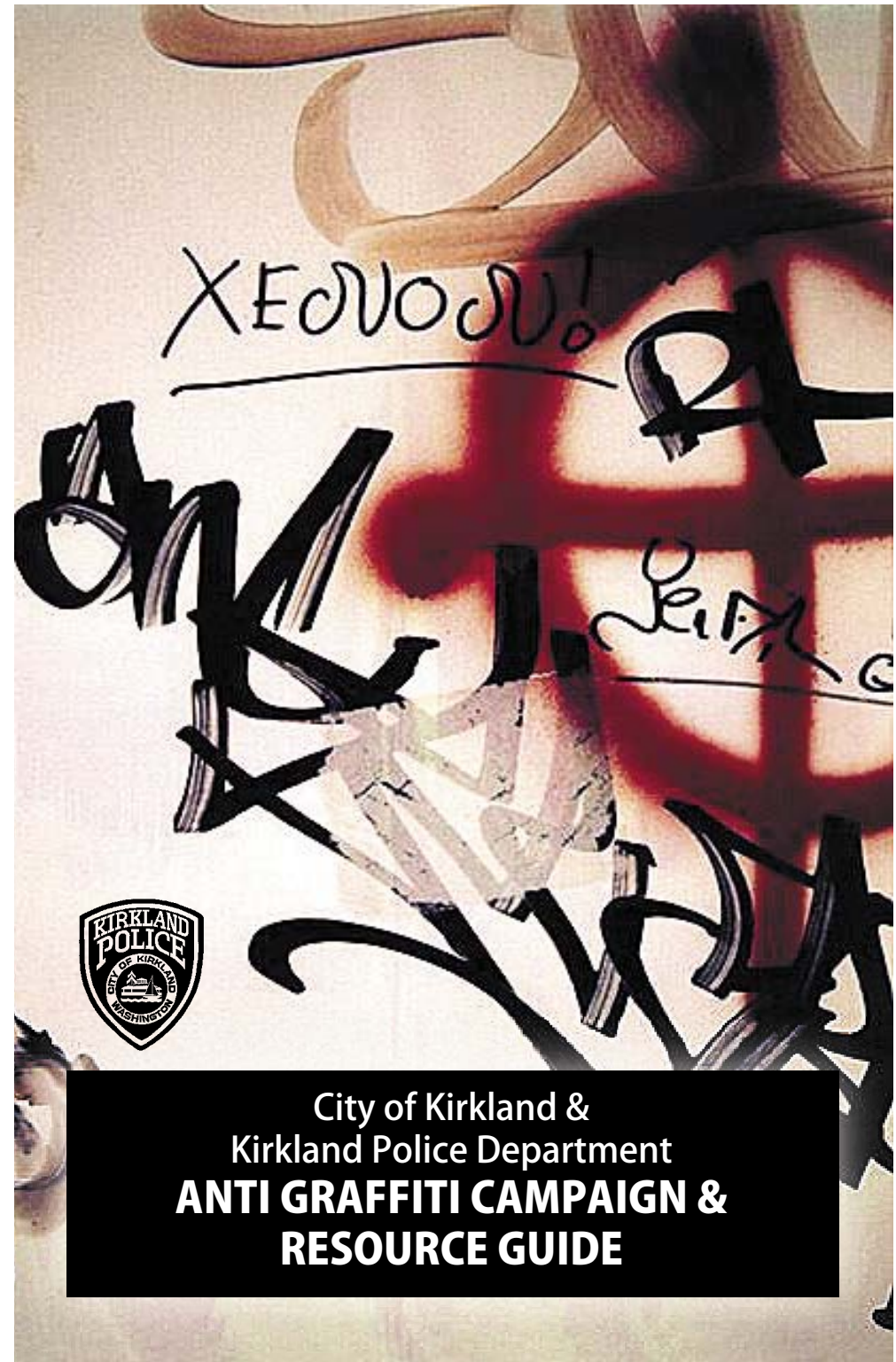
Phone Numbers

Kirkland Police Department:

Emergency: 911
Business: (425) 587-3400

Website With More Information

City of Kirkland..... www.kirklandwa.gov





What Is Graffiti?

Graffiti is any inscription, word, figure or design marked, scratched, etched, drawn or painted on buildings, fences, structures, equipment or similar places.

Graffiti is a crime! It is the destruction of property and is a financial burden for citizens and businesses. It spreads fear in the neighborhoods it appears in.

RCW 9A.48.070-090 deals with Malicious Mischief. If the damage is over \$250.00 it is a felony, punishable by a prison sentence.

KMC 11.24.020 (n) Declares that graffiti is a public nuisance and mandates that the property owner must remove graffiti from their property. Failure to do so can result in a fine up to \$5000.00 and the costs of the city removing the graffiti.

Graffiti is organized illegal activity. Taggers are vandals engaging in criminal activity.

Colors are often vivid and eye-catching, but the message is violence. "Tagging" and "Gang Tags" are often not far removed. Both claim territory and can lead to violence when other outside parties mark over their "art" in a challenge for the territory.

Public facilities, businesses and private property owners have to bear the cost of clean up and repair if the vandals are not apprehended and restitution recovered. These increased costs have to be passed on to the citizens and consumers.

Dealing With Graffiti

Graffiti must be dealt with quickly.
Zero Tolerance + Swift Action = RESULTS

Zero Tolerance:

Cases reported to, or observed by, the police are investigated and suspects are charged in the appropriate court. Restitution is requested as part of sentencing. This helps defray the citizen's cost of this vandalism. Successful prosecutions put the word out that Kirkland is not a place to come to for graffiti.

Swift Action:

- Quick removal of the graffiti by the City and property owners.
- 911 is called whenever vandals are seen damaging property.
- Quick and successful prosecution of suspects.
- Community resolve that this will not be tolerated.
- Mechanically it is easier to remove graffiti sooner than later, especially if paint or other marking devices are used.

RESULTS:

- **Reduction in graffiti as Kirkland is seen as not tolerating it.**
- It reclaims the territory the vandals are attempting to claim using graffiti.
- It discourages other vandals from engaging in graffiti as their work will be removed immediately.
- The Public's perception of safety and neighborhood value is maintained at a high level.