

## Top Ten Graffiti Prevention Tips

Graffiti, by definition, is the words, colors and shapes, drawn or scratched onto any surface (i.e. buildings, underpasses, utilities boxes or fences) that is done without permission and is against the law. Graffiti, while being the most common type of property vandalism, sends a message of fear, throughout the community, while attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency. Graffiti is not only costly to the residents, business owners and local municipalities but contributes significantly to blight and neighborhoods quality of life. The City of Hayward, while pro-active in its efforts to manage the on-going and increasing graffiti vandalism, needs your participation and cooperation to effectively reduce and eliminate graffiti throughout our neighborhoods and City. Below is a list of informative and useful strategies when faced with graffiti tagging.

1. Get Educated. Learn about graffiti and how it impacts your community. By controlling access, incorporating landscaping and or fencing, limiting access to roofs by thoughtful placement of dumpsters and add or improve lighting around the building/resident to promote natural surveillance, are just a few simple and cost effective ways to combat graffiti vandalism.
2. Report graffiti to the appropriate authorities. For graffiti concerns in the City of Hayward please call 583-8888. For the Graffiti Award Hotline please call 583-5500.
3. Organize a paint-out to address “Hot Spots” of graffiti tagging. Gather supplies and community volunteers to remove graffiti in your neighborhood. Rapid and continual removal of graffiti is the best way for owners to protect their community from graffiti vandals. Free paint can be obtained at the Davis Street Transfer Station @ 2615 Davis St. San Leandro or from Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program 1-800-606-6606. You can also contact the Keep Hayward Clean & Green Task Force for possible assistance. Visit [www.hayward-ca.gov](http://www.hayward-ca.gov) for details on the K.H.C. &G Task Force.
4. Plan a paint-brush mural to cover a wall that is continuously plagued with graffiti. Or send us your suggestions on potential mural sites and or participation in the City of Hayward’s Mural Program.
5. Coordinate a graffiti awareness campaign at your school or in the community and engaging at-youth- risk.
6. Adopt-a-spot in your school or community.
7. Pro-actively plant trees or other greenery near an already graffiti-plagued wall or future potential areas where graffiti may become an issue.
8. Apply an anti-graffiti coating on walls whenever possible for easy removal of graffiti.
9. Dedicate a neighborhood association meeting to graffiti prevention and invite local city staff and law enforcement.
10. Know the local laws and Ordinances as it relates to graffiti in your city. Copies of these can usually be obtained through the city’s web-site at [www.hayward-ca.gov](http://www.hayward-ca.gov).