



San Dimas Sheriff's Station

Neighborhood Watch News

Prevent Graffiti: Get the Facts

What is graffiti?

You've probably seen graffiti somewhere in your community. It's the words, colors, and shapes drawn or scratched on buildings, overpasses, train cars, desks and other surfaces. It's done without permission and it's against the law.

Graffiti today ranges from simple, one-color monikers (like nicknames), called "tags", repeated on many surfaces to complex compositions of several colors.

Graffiti is very much a youth-related problem, with about half of all acts committed by males from pre-teens to early 20s.

How is a community really hurt by graffiti?

Graffiti sends the signal that nobody cares. This becomes an open invitation for loitering, littering, more graffiti, and crime.

Graffiti drains tax dollars. Funds that could be used for schools, roads, parks, and other community improvement, are used for graffiti clean up.

Graffiti decreases a resident's feeling of safety. It hurts property values and frightens away businesses.

How to prevent graffiti?

The most effective way to prevent graffiti is to remove it promptly. While this may be difficult, studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.

Constant enforcement of local ordinances with strict penalties for graffiti vandalism is very effective.

San Dimas Ordinance 9.45.030. No person under eighteen years of age may have in their possession any aerosol paint can, dye container, marker with a tip larger than one-fourth inch in width or any tool or instrument designed to inscribe or etch on glass or metal on any public highway, street, alley or way, or in any automobile, vehicle unless that person is accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Reporting Graffiti

All incidents of graffiti are tracked by the San Dimas Sheriff's station for prosecution and recovery of clean up costs. Because of this, all graffiti needs to be reported prior to it being cleaned up. To report graffiti call

**San Dimas Sheriff's station
909-450-2700**