

PREVENTION TIPS

Minimizing graffiti on your property begins with keeping the property clean and well-maintained. Fencing, increased lighting, and motion sensor lighting all contribute to reducing crime, including graffiti, in your neighborhood. On vulnerable walls, use clinging vegetation, like ivy, to eliminate large writing surfaces.

>> If your property has been tagged with graffiti, **rapid removal**, notably within 24 to 48 hours, will reduce the chance of being tagged again.

>> Report known taggers to the anonymous Public Works Graffiti Hotline at 619-397-6000.

SUBMIT A SERVICE REQUEST

Residents can now use ACT Chula Vista to submit requests for non-emergency services via mobile app and website. Get the app called ACT Chula Vista for iPhone or Android. Residents can use ACT Chula Vista to report issues such as graffiti, pot holes, dead animals, malfunctioning traffic signals and abandoned vehicles. You can provide locations, a description and photos to ACT Chula Vista regarding the problem; requests can be submitted anonymously. ACT Chula Vista allows citizens to report non-emergency issues, monitor progress and view updates, you will be given a tracking number for your request. The same request cannot be entered multiple times. ACT Chula Vista is monitored during normal business hours. To report a problem without accessing ACT Chula Vista please call Public Works Dispatch at 619-397-6000. (Note: ACT Chula Vista is a public website so any information you can include can be seen by anyone on the web.) **ACT Chula Vista and Public Works Dispatch are strictly for non-emergency services. Any emergency should still be reported to 911**

Can you spot a TAGGER?

If you see someone with two or more of these implements among their things that person is probably writing graffiti in your neighborhood.



CHULA VISTA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

GRAFFITI VANDALISM



Public Works Graffiti Hotline
619.397.6000

Police Non-Emergency
619.691.5151

In-Progress Graffiti Call 911



DEFINITION of GRAFFITI

Graffiti is defined as the unauthorized inscription, word, figure, mark, or design that is written, marked, etched, scratched, drawn, or painted on real or personal property.

TAGGERS

Taggers are vandals that adopt a nickname and sometimes associate with a tagging crew similar to street gangs. However, their motivations are very different. Instead of fighting their tagger war with weapons as street gangs do, the tagger's weapon of choice is spray paint. The nickname taggers adopt is called a "moniker". Taggers write their moniker repetitively, and by doing this the tagger believes he or she will gain recognition or fame. Taggers will pick places such as freeway walls, overpasses, or a block wall along a busy street. Tagging takes place at all hours of the day and night. As taggers evolve, the lines between "tagging" and "gang banging" are often blurred. Many taggers and tagging crews can transform into gangs.

WHY JUVENILES BECOME TAGGERS

- >> Identity and recognition
- >> Friendship / Companionship
- >> Ego fulfillment or self esteem
- >> Excitement
- >> Peer pressure
- >> Attention

GRAFFITI ENFORCEMENT

The Chula Vista Police Department's Street Team Gang Suppression Unit (STGSU) aggressively enforces graffiti-related violations. Officers assigned to the STGSU work directly with other law enforcement agencies, citizens, school officials and informants to establish the identities of graffiti vandals. The STGSU, along with Public Works, Code Enforcement, and the District Attorney's Office work together to combat graffiti vandalism. The use of technology such as Graffiti Tracker, surveillance footage, social media, and digital photography are also tools used to identify, arrest and prosecute graffiti vandals. Members of the community are encouraged to help by reporting both in-progress graffiti vandalism and to report known taggers.

FINANCIAL COST

Not only is graffiti a serious criminal act, but it's also an exceedingly expensive crime. Each year the state of California spends millions of dollars undoing the damage of graffiti vandalism. The City of Chula Vista spends tens of thousands of dollars annually to remove graffiti within the city limits. These figures do not include damage done to private property.

PUNISHMENT

In 2018, twenty four graffiti vandals were arrested and ordered to pay tens of thousands of dollars in damages to the City of Chula Vista.

A majority of these arrests were juveniles, this means their parents are ultimately responsible for the restitution. In addition to jail time and financial repercussions, an arrest for graffiti vandalism can permanently stain a person's criminal record.



PRODUCT of the SD-LECC

GRAFFITI TRACKER SYSTEM

The Graffiti Tracker System is designed to quickly capture, analyze, and make graffiti intelligence available to law enforcement and city officials. This web-based program offers the most trusted graffiti intelligence, from data collection to analysis. Graffiti Tracker users go through training that allows them to look beyond the spray paint; users can analyze, document, classify and identify taggers through photos of graffiti.

GANG GRAFFITI

Gang graffiti has been called the "newspaper of the streets". In many cases, this is an indicator of possible street gang activity in a neighborhood. Graffiti serves several purposes to gangs which includes intimidation, marking territorial boundaries, posting rosters of current members, posting threats to the community and rival gangs. Gang graffiti and tagging are different. Taggers put up their monikers for a sense of recognition and fame. Gang members use graffiti to mark their territory by putting up their gang name.

REPORTING GRAFFITI

The City of Chula Vista employs Public Works crew members who work alongside CVPD, Code Enforcement and the District Attorney's office to eradicate graffiti vandalism. Graffiti can and will be removed from public property so long as the graffiti is within public view.

To report graffiti vandalism in progress call 911

To report graffiti call:

Visible to the Public	Not Visible to the Public
Public Works Graffiti Hot Line (619) 397-6000	Police Non-Emergency (619) 691-5151

**** If you see graffiti anywhere in the City of Chula Vista on either public or private property, report it immediately. ****