




Canada's Tournament Capital

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

 1303 Mission Flats Road  
Kamloops, BC, V2C 1A9

### Report Graffiti on Public Property



**Use the MyKamloops App**  
download for free from your app store



**Report online at**  
[Kamloops.ca/Graffiti](https://Kamloops.ca/Graffiti)



**Phone Community Services**  
at 250-828-3409



**Email** [communityservices@kamloops.ca](mailto:communityservices@kamloops.ca)

**If you see a vandal in the process of tagging, contact the RCMP at 250-828-3000.**

Stay Connected @CityofKamloops



# Graffiti



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## GRAFFITI EXPLAINED

Spray paint vandalism—graffiti—is unauthorized etching, painting, or placing of a mark on public or private property. While some people may hear the word “graffiti” and think of it as an art form or a mode of freestyle expression, the reality is that graffiti is an act of vandalism that costs Kamloops taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to remove or cover.

The most common type of graffiti in Kamloops is “tagging”, which is the writing and/or painting of an identifiable symbolic character or “tag” that may or may not contain letters. The tag becomes a signature for the vandal, who may experience pride and develop recognition among other taggers.

Every tagger’s goal is to have their tag seen in many locations by many people for as long as possible.

If a tag is covered up, there is a strong possibility that a new tag will appear. This new tag must be covered as soon as possible (within 24 hours is best). This process may have to be repeated several times before the tagger learns that it is a waste of time and paint as no one will see the tag in that area.

[Kamloops.ca/Graffiti](https://Kamloops.ca/Graffiti)

## NOT A VICTIMLESS CRIME

Graffiti often occurs on a public property like bridges, utility boxes, and signage. Individual citizens can be directly affected when they find their garages, vehicles, and fences have been tagged. In addition to the costs associated with removal, graffiti can result in an area looking unsafe or intimidating. It reduces property values, can create an open invitation for littering and loitering, and can invite more vandalism. It may also lead to an increase in other criminal behaviours and acts of violence.

## HOW TO HELP

### To help reduce the occurrence of graffiti in Kamloops:

- Report graffiti on public property for removal.
- Increase lighting and visibility around targeted areas on your building or property.
- Ensure targeted spots can be seen from high-traffic areas where possible. If targeted areas are easily visible by the public, it will aid in discouraging graffiti activity.
- Use plants to landscape walls, fences, and storefronts as graffiti and litter are less common in landscaped areas.
- Talk to your children about graffiti and respect for the community.
- Create a wall mural on the side of your building. Murals must be preapproved by the Arts and Culture Engagement Group. Information on the mural process can be found in the Graffiti Control Bylaw No. 25-5.
- If you see graffiti on your neighbour's property, inform them and encourage them to remove it.
- Participate in community cleanups.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

### The City is working towards its goal of a clean, safe, graffiti-free city by:

- Removing graffiti as quickly as possible
- Increasing the community's capacity to manage graffiti
- Enhancing civic pride and prosperity for residents and businesses
- Encouraging the use of prevention techniques
- Providing easy and accessible reporting options
- Supporting residents and businesses with appropriate tools and resources
- Involving businesses, residents, youth, community organizations, and graffiti writers as partners



If you require assistance to remove graffiti, contact the Graffiti Task Force at 250-572-6848 or email [gftkamloops@gmail.ca](mailto:gftkamloops@gmail.ca). A small fee applies.

## GRAFFITI REMOVAL

When a property has been tagged, the property owner is responsible for removing it. It is recommended the tag be removed within 24 hours. The following information for graffiti removal is to be used as a guide only.

### Non-Sensitive Surfaces

#### Painted Wood Siding, Painted Concrete

- Apply a stain-killing primer or pigmented shellac. This seals the graffiti and prevents it from bleeding through fresh paint.
- Repaint the surface with an appropriate colour. Poor paint jobs can lead to more graffiti, so try to match the original colour.

### Sensitive Surfaces

#### Brick, Cement, Concrete

- Use extra-strength paint remover or graffiti remover.
- Apply with a wire brush, allow it to dry, and rinse with a forceful stream of water.

#### Stucco

- Use paint remover and wash off with a high-pressure water hose.
- Use stucco paint and carefully cover the graffiti.

#### Metal, Aluminum Siding, Fiberglass

- Use carburetor cleaner.
- Use paint remover sparingly and rinse carefully.

#### Glass or Plexiglas®

- Use carburetor cleaner if regular cleaners do not work, but use caution with Plexiglas® as it scratches easily.