

Fact Sheet

Graffiti removal

The best way to manage Graffiti vandalism in our community is for every property owner to remove graffiti immediately after it appears.

Council recognises that graffiti has a significant financial and social impact on the community and has a negative impact on the wellbeing and sense of pride of its residents.

Council aims to work in partnership with the people that live, work and do business in the area to encourage, promote and provide a clean environment that is graffiti-free, welcoming and safe.

What is graffiti?

Graffiti is the illegal application of written, scribbled, scratched or painted writing or drawings to property without the owner's permission. Graffiti is a criminal offence.

Graffiti applied to property without permission is viewed as vandalism regardless of its artistic merits. Unsightly graffiti detracts from the visual amenity of an area, is destructive to property and a cost burden to the community.

What is Council doing to remove graffiti?

- Council recognises that rapid removal is the best deterrent to graffiti.
- Property owners are encouraged to report any graffiti incident involving Council property at any time on 8563 8444. When reporting, please identify the address of the property that has been vandalised and the type of surface that needs to be cleaned (brick wall, colourbond fencing, rendered walls, etc).
- Once reported Council's Operations Team aims to remove graffiti from Council property within a reasonable time frame.
- Graffiti on private property is the building owner's responsibility and Council will not automatically remove graffiti from private property. Council will assist in the removal of graffiti from private property on request and in certain cases may supply graffiti removal products to property owners (some conditions apply).
- Council documents graffiti incidents and if requested provides imaged information to SAPOL for entry into the statewide database.
- Council assists in creating a graffiti-free environment by encouraging and supporting community groups and individuals that wish to assist in implementing graffiti prevention initiatives that:
 - aim to reduce incidents of graffiti vandalism in the Barossa
 - increase community reporting of graffiti
 - increase community participation in anti-graffiti programs.



Who do I report a graffiti attack to?

For Police attendance in the case of personal threat or injury
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Graffiti in progress or to report a crime
SAPOL - 131 444

Information of known offenders or illegal activity
1800 333 000 - Crime Stoppers

Green transformer boxes/stobie poles
SA Power Networks – 13 12 61

Australia Post letter boxes
13 76 78

Telephone boxes
Telstra - 180 2244

Traffic light control boxes/poles
Traffic Control Centre - 1800 018 313

Council buildings/fences/road signs
The Barossa Council - 8563 8444

How can I remove graffiti from my property?

Removing graffiti is usually not a difficult task, particularly if the damage has occurred recently.

Remove graffiti with a brush or scourer and soapy water or try rubbing with mineral turpentine or methylated spirits.

Paint over graffiti, it's quick, cheap and simple. Keep a supply of the matching paint to quickly reapply if graffiti reappears. Wherever possible use a matching surface colour to paint over the graffiti; it has been shown that a patched area is more likely to be hit again than a clean looking surface.

If neither of these solutions removes the graffiti, chemical measures may be necessary. Contact Council for assistance (some conditions apply).

Prevention tips

- Large blank walls or fences attract the most graffiti. Painting a surface with a dark colour deters vandalism as light coloured surfaces are more likely to be targeted.
- Use textured rough surfaces in the design of buildings and fences.
- Consider the use of sensor lighting or keep the area well lit at night.
- Graffiti attracts more graffiti. Prompt removal and property upkeep can help reduce graffiti.

How can I help manage graffiti?

Graffiti removal in the community can be strongly supported by dedicated community volunteers.

If you are interested in joining a team to paint out or remove unsightly graffiti in your area contact Council's Corporate and Community Services Department on 8563 8453.