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**DISCLAIMER**

This non-comprehensive general information pamphlet regarding the City of Pueblo Municipal Court is not intended to provide legal advice of any kind.

While the majority of individuals charged with municipal ordinance violations represent themselves in Court, if you are charged with violating a municipal ordinance, you are encouraged to seek the legal advice of an attorney.



**GRAFFITI  
REMOVAL TIPS**



**Making  
Customer Service  
Our #1 Priority**

<http://www.pueblo.us/court>

### Tips for Preventing Graffiti

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, such as ivy, to eliminate large writing surfaces. Prompt removal of graffiti within 24 hours reduces the chance of being tagged again.

If your building has a sensitive surface, such as brick or stucco, consider applying a protective anti-graffiti coating. This is especially advantageous if your property is repeatedly targeted with graffiti.

### Tips for Removal on Different Surfaces

**BRICK, CEMENT, CONCRETE:** Use extra strength paint remover. Apply with a wire brush to work into the holes and pores. Allow time to activate and rinse with forceful stream of water from a hose. Use of a pressure washer or soda blaster may be needed. If the surface is uniformly flat, a light grit sandpaper can be used to remove paint but will also scratch the surface. Consider using a sealer after removal to close pores and make future removal easier. Soda or sandblasting can be used, but it may erode the surface.

**STUCCO:** Due to the multi-textured surface of stucco, graffiti is impossible to sand off. Use paint remover and follow with a high-pressure water hose or pressure washer. Use stucco paint and go over the graffiti carefully. Consider using a sealer as a finishing coat. Soda and sandblasting can be used, but it may erode the stucco.

**ALUMINUM/VINYL SIDING:** Aluminum siding is usually coated or painted. Vinyl siding is made of plastic, which can be marred by lacquer thinner-type cleaners. Solvents may work too aggressively and remove the coating as well. Experiment in a small inconspicuous area first and then tackle the more visible areas. Use paint remover sparingly and carefully. Use a clean rag and keep turning to a clean part of the rag before each wipe. The longer the solvent stays on the surface, the deeper it penetrates. In most cases, you will need to repaint.

**WOOD:** Most thinner will remove magic marker, and acetone will remove day old spray paint if the wood is not weathered or sealed. You must use a clean rag and keep using a fresh part on each wipe. On latex or oil based paint, use a stain-blocking primer for exterior use. After the stain blocker has dried, you can proceed with regular paints, oil or latex. Most oil base paints are more durable to solvents and could make future clean up easier. Consider a sealer coat after final finish. Avoid using flat paints, as they readily absorb pigments from markers and spray paint. If these methods do not work, you may need to sand and re-paint.

**FIBERGLASS:** Depending on the type of graffiti, thinner may be the best choice. Be aware that acetone-based solvents will soften plastics. Use full-strength paint remover and rinse carefully.

**METAL:** On any unpainted metal (iron or stainless steel) surface, any solvent can be used. Some polished aluminum surfaces will cloud or oxidize with aggressive cleaners, like lacquer thinner. Use the clean rag technique. If you are unsuccessful, try paint remover.

**GLASS OR PLEXIGLASS:** Any razor blade can scrape away cured paint on regular glass. For other marks, any solvent can be used. Use

the clean rag technique and hold the rag over the graffiti for a moment to let the solvent work. On plexiglass, be careful of lacquer thinner type solvents, as they can attack the surface causing it to fog and smear. Make sure your product is compatible with the type of surface you are cleaning. Rinse thoroughly with water.

**ETCHING:** Surfaces scratched or scored with sharp objects can only be filled with fillers or the material will have to be replaced. Some new types of glass have replaceable covers or film covers that are cheaper to replace than the etched glass. Automotive body fillers can fill deep gouges and then be repainted. The only other recourse may be to replace the glass. You might deny the vandal's mark, thus turning a "P" into a "B" and so on. It's a psychological solution, demonstrating that this area will not tolerate the vandal's message.

**NOTE:** Always read product labels and follow manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.



#### City of Pueblo Graffiti Removal Program

If you notice graffiti within the City of Pueblo, please contact the Graffiti Removal Hotline!

**GRAFFITI HOTLINE**

**(719) 553-2501**