

Graffiti Removal Methods

PAINT OVER GRAFFITI

- If a large portion of a property has been vandalized, it may be cheaper to simply repaint. This also gives you the opportunity to perhaps change paints to glossy enamel which will resist future graffiti attacks and is better than a flat finish.
- Keep an extra gallon of the same type of paint on hand to help ensure a quick perfect match if graffiti returns.
- If you are painting over graffiti, try using a stain blocker such as Kilz first so that you will be able to block the darker paint from seeping through the fresh paint
- Use latex paint. It is less expensive and easier to clean up. Oil based paint **is not recommended**
- **Once the new paint is on, you may wish to consider using a sealer. A sealer will close the small surface pores and resist graffiti's ability to stick and make it easier to remove graffiti the next time.**
- Most sealers are sacrificial barriers, meaning that if you are hit with graffiti and repair the area a sealer needs to be reapplied after the graffiti is removed.

BRICK, CEMENT, CONCRETE

- Use an extra strength paint remover. Apply it with a wire brush to work into holes and pores of the stone.
- Allow sufficient time for the remover to activate and rinse the area with a forceful stream of water from a water hose.
- Use a pressure washer or soda blaster may be needed depending on how long the graffiti has been on the surface.
- **Using a sealer after removal will work to close the pores and make future removal easier**

When using chemical to remove graffiti, always make sure the product you are using is compatible with the type of surface you are cleaning... Always read the label and consult a contractor or your local hardware store.

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STUCCO

- Graffiti on Stucco is **impossible to sand off.**
- Use a paint remover and follow up with a high pressure water hose or even more preferred a pressure washer.
- Use Stucco paint and paint over the graffiti carefully
- **Consider using a sealer as a finish coat.**

ALUMINUM / VINYL

- **Do not use** any lacquer thinner-type cleaners. Aluminum and Vinyl is usually coated or painted and these type of chemicals can actually do more damage to the surface.
- **Be very careful** using solvents because they work very aggressively and may remove the aluminum or vinyl coating as well.
- **Experiment** in a small not easily seen area first and then work to remove the more visible area once you have seen results that the material you are using is working.
- Use paint remover very sparingly and carefully. Use a clean rag and alternate to a clean rag with each wipe.
- If the solvent you are using stays on the surface, the deeper it will penetrate.
- It is best practice and recommended you contact a professional before attempting removal from aluminum and vinyl surfaces.

GLASS AND PLEXIGLASS

- Any razor blade can scrape away cured paint on regular glass.
- Solvents can also be used
- Use a clean rag and hold the rag over the graffiti for a moment to let the solvent work on the paint.

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GLASS AND PLEXIGLASS – cont.

- If you are working with plexiglass, be careful of lacquer thinner based solvents because they can damage the plexiglass surface and cause it to smear or fog.
- Rinse thoroughly with water

WOOD

- If the graffiti is new, most thinners will remove markers and acetone will remove graffiti paint if the graffiti is about a day old.
- Clean the surface with a clean rag, and use a fresh part of the rag with every wipe.
- See paint over.....

FIBERGLASS

- Removal of graffiti from these type of surfaces require experimentation as well.
- BEWARE – Acetone will soften fiberglass surfaces.
- Carefully use a full strength paint remover and rinse.

METAL

- Any solvent can be used on any unpainted metal, iron or stainless steel surface.
- Some polished finishes however will cloud or even oxidize with aggressive cleaners such as lacquer thinner.
- Paint remover (always test small areas)

ETCHING

- The best practice for dealing with etched glass is to contact a glass contractor.
- About the only recourse for etched glass is replacement.

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