

Who to Call

If you see someone in the process of applying graffiti within the City of Somerton: Immediately contact the police on (928) 627-2011 or (928) 627-2012.

If you spot any new graffiti in your neighborhood report it:

First to the Police on (928) 627-2011 or (928) 627-2012

Then the City on (928) 722-7322 during office hours.

We will arrange to have it removed as soon as possible within 24 hours if it is on public property.

You can reduce the opportunities for graffiti by:

- Growing vines, trees, bushes or prickly plants along walls this can prevent access to surfaces or materials that are the targets of graffiti;
- Applying anti-graffiti coatings to surfaces or materials that are targets of graffiti;
- Avoiding light colors on walls and fences and keeping surfaces evenly painted;
- Installing good lighting in target areas— this increases the perception of safety and deters criminal activity (sensor lighting can be effective deterrent); and
- Reporting graffiti to the Police and City of Somerton immediately.

REPORT GRAFFITI ON YOUR PROPERTY

If graffiti vandalism appears on your property, please record and report the crime promptly so that it may be photographed and catalogued. This ensures that there is a history that goes with the offender to court when they are apprehended.

To report graffiti in progress call 911

Tips for Parents

Check backpacks for markers and/or spray paint, as well as sketch books, pieces of paper with graffiti “tags” on them, aerosol can caps and/or nozzles, white shoe polish and photographs of graffiti pieces of murals. Check school papers for graffiti “tags” and/or sketches of murals.

One of the things that task forces have learned is that most parents have no idea that their children are involved in these crimes. It is important to know who your children are associating with and make sure they are home at curfew time.



Parents of children involved in graffiti vandalism can be held financially responsible for the damage done by their children

Remember-Graffiti is a crime. Known as “Criminal Damage” If you damage a property, you will be held accountable Under Arizona State Law (A.R.S. 13-1602A&B)

City of Somerton
Public Works Department
143 N State Avenue

Somerton, Arizona 85350
Phone (928) 722-7322

Fax (928) 627-2707

www.cityofsomerton.com



Graffiti Removal



City of
Somerton

The city of Somerton & your Local Police—Caring for your community

The City of Somerton and the Police Department, in its continuing efforts to save the quality of the community, established a **Graffiti Abatement Program** in 2005. This program uses the Police Department, Public Works Department and community resources.

What is graffiti?

Graffiti is an act of vandalism that cost taxpayers money. These monies go to ward building and property repair, clean up and restoration. Graffiti is defined as writing, drawings or symbols applied to any surface without the consent of the property owner, authorized agent or designate. Graffiti vandals use a variety of materials such as spray paint, crayons and permanent ink to deface property. Hobby knives and razor blades are used to cause permanent damage to glass and other surfaces.

Where does the graffiti crime occur?

Graffiti crime can occur anywhere. Some of the more popular targets include:

- Public and private buildings
- Newspaper vending boxes & utility boxes
- Street Signs
- Parks, playgrounds & recreational facilities
- Public transit property and vehicles

Why should I be concerned about graffiti?

Graffiti is a serious crime that impacts all the citizens of Somerton. Removing graffiti and repairing the damage it causes costs city tax dollars. Properties can be devaluated and business owners can lose customers from the negative image that graffiti generates. Moreover, the presence of graffiti can send the message that a neighborhood is decline or over-ridden with crime.



Graffiti Prevention

“Tagging” is the permanent marking of public or private property with initials or an acronym to gain recognition and notoriety. The intent is to deface as many surfaces in the most notable way possible. When used by gangs, graffiti elevates violence and promotes gang membership. Graffiti also contributes to the overall decline of the neighborhood as it gives the impression that no one cares about the overall state of the community.

Rapid removal is the most effective way of preventing graffiti from reappearing as it reduces the motivation of graffiti vandals, which is to display their graffiti.

Research demonstrates that where is left repeat attacks often occur a tagged wall is ten times more likely to be vandalized than a clean wall. A patched over wall is three times more likely to be vandalized than a completely painted wall.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF VANDALISM AND PROPERTY DAMAGE. REMEMBER THAT PARENTS OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN GRAFFITI CAN BE HELD FINANCIALLY LIABLE.

What can the public do to help?

In progress Graffiti Calls

If you see graffiti/vandalism in progress, dial **911**. Do Not approach those involved in what you believe to be criminal activity. Stay on the line with **911**.

Pre-existing Graffiti

Anyone can report a graffiti location through Police Department calling to the 24 hours hotline at (928) 627-2011, (928) 627-2012 or to Public Works Department at (928) 722-7322 during office hours Monday-Friday from 7:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M.

CITY OF SOMERTON



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