



WHY GRAFFITI HURTS

Graffiti is costly and destructive. While it is burdensome to remove, graffiti has much larger ramifications if it is allowed to remain. Graffiti sends a signal that no one cares, and that attracts other forms of crime and delinquency. Graffiti can also decrease property values and business vitality, leading to blight within communities. Residents feel threatened and lose pride in their neighborhoods when graffiti is present.

Vandalism is against the law and offenders will be criminally charged by the Burlington Police Department. However, preventing graffiti and removing existing graffiti takes a community. Together Burlington will combat graffiti to keep our city safe, clean, and prosperous.

CONTACTS & MORE INFORMATION

VICTIM OF GRAFFITI? CALL: 229-3500

SEE GRAFFITI? REPORT IT: 222-5024

ONLINE INFORMATION AT
WWW.BURLINGTONNC.GOV/GRAFFITI

“Graffiti is a statement by gang members that they are claiming a neighborhood. As responsible citizens, our response should be swift and sure. We should be committed to promptly removing the graffiti. This is our statement back that we own these streets and criminal conduct will not be tolerated.”

~Chief Jeffrey Smythe

CITY OF BURLINGTON

GRAFFITI

A GUIDE TO BURLINGTON'S
GRAFFITI ORDINANCE, GRAFFITI
PREVENTION, AND ABATEMENT



BURLINGTON'S GRAFFITI ORDINANCE

The Graffiti Control and Removal Ordinance was passed by the Burlington City Council in 2013. The Ordinance defines graffiti as a public nuisance, allowing the City's Code Enforcement Division to abate the nuisance if necessary.

By ordinance, applying graffiti to any natural or man-made surface is prohibited. The existence of graffiti on public or private property is a violation of the Ordinance.

Once graffiti is brought to the attention of the City, the property owner will receive a notice of defacement from the City. The property owner then has ten days to remove or paint over the graffiti. If the graffiti is not removed, the City's Code Enforcement division will begin working to remove the graffiti at the cost of the owner.

WHAT IF GRAFFITI HAPPENS TO YOU?



Has your home or business been tagged by graffiti? The following are some steps you can take.

1. Report the incident to the Burlington Police Department by calling (336) 229-3500.
2. Photograph the graffiti.
3. Contact your property insurance company.
4. Consult a paint distributor regarding the best method for removal or paint-over for the surface on which the graffiti is located.
5. If you live in a Historic District or Landmark, contact the Planning Department at (336) 513-5416 for further information.
6. Remove the graffiti.
7. Dispose of paint and painting supplies properly at the Alamance County Landfill by calling (336) 376-8902.
8. Take steps to prevent graffiti in the future. Call the Police Department at (336) 513-5449 for crime prevention assistance.

TIPS FOR PREVENTING GRAFFITI

While you may not be able to ensure that your property will never be tagged by graffiti, there are some steps you can take to minimize your risks or ease your efforts to remove any graffiti that does occur.

- Create a barrier along walls by planting bushes that have thorns or prickly leaves. Check with a local nursery to make the best selection.
- Install motion-activated lighting in the front and back areas of your property.
- Join or create a neighborhood watch group. Vigilant communities are less likely to fall prey to crime.
- Protect the surfaces of cement or brick by applying a sealant or protective coating (available at home improvement stores).
- Contact Burlington's Crime Prevention Division at (336) 513-5449 for personalized advice on deterring graffiti and other crime on your property.

