

Removal Tips

The Village of Skokie Community Development Department has compiled a comprehensive list of commercially available products which may be helpful in preventing permanent damage or removing existing graffiti.

Some of the products are designed to remove graffiti from various kinds of surfaces such as glass, fiberglass, aluminum, concrete, baked enamels, brick, concrete block, aggregate rock, etc. Other products are designed to remove graffiti from surfaces such as Plexiglas, automobile finishes, painted surfaces, etc.

Coatings are also available that are applied to surfaces likely to be targeted by graffiti offenders. The application of these products should allow easy removal of graffiti but may require a re-application after the graffiti has been removed. All of the products are non-toxic, according to the manufacturers.

A list of these products is available through the Community Development Department or Skokie Police Department, Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit.

For more information, contact the Skokie Police Department Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit at 847/982-5919 or 847/982-5924.



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Village Clerk
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Trustees
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Village Manager
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Corporation Counsel
Michael M. Lorge

Chief of Police
Anthony Scarpelli

The Skokie Police Department has been fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since November of 1988. Accreditation by CALEA is a process by which law enforcement agencies voluntarily seek to demonstrate their continued ability to meet nationally recognized standards. Re-accreditation occurs every three years.

The benefits to Skokie residents, businesses, and employees include controlled liability insurance costs, administrative improvements, greater accountability, and increased governmental and community support for these agencies.

The Village of Skokie Police Department's philosophy of community-oriented policing is designed to help build a partnership with our citizens. The partnership will work to find solutions to identified issues in our neighborhoods, on our streets, and in our industrial and commercial areas.

For more information on Police Department programs and services please visit www.skokie.org.



The Skokie Police Department



Village of Skokie

Police Department
7300 Niles Center Road
Emergency: [Fire, Police, Medical] 9-1-1
Non Emergency: 847-982-5900

www.skokie.org

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What is Graffiti?

The term graffiti refers to the defacement of surfaces especially visible to the public, using a type of medium such as spray paint, paint and brush, markers, or any other device or material that will show visibly on a surface. The reason persons deface property with graffiti is not always clear. The Skokie Police Department is very concerned with this type of criminal activity and a considerable amount of police resources are directed to the investigation of these incidents. In some communities, graffiti is gang related and either establishes territory or advertises a gang's presence. Skokie has some gang-related graffiti each year. Other graffiti incidents in Skokie are caused by persons who "copy cat" symbols and gang logos. In other cases, youths simply deface property without any specific designs or messages. This does not change the fact that according to the law, these actions are classified as criminal defacement. Moreover, the presence of graffiti in any form is unsightly and disturbing to residents and visitors. Tagging is another term that describes a similar activity. Tagging is usually not gang-related but rather a statement by individuals attempting to display their artistic skills with some type of sign, symbol or name identifying their work.

Cooperation

The Skokie Police Department asks residents, merchants and business owners for their cooperation in dealing with graffiti and tagging by taking the following steps when your home or business is affected.

Reporting

The Skokie Police Department should be notified of all graffiti incidents. Residents and business owners that actually observe an incident should call 9-1-1. Officers will respond to the scene and attempt to apprehend the offenders, complete a report and photograph the graffiti. By photographing the graffiti, the Police Department can record the incident and obtain evidence which may lead to the conviction of the individuals responsible for the defacement. In many cases markings unique to a tagger appear on a regular basis and may allow for charging the individual with all related incidents because of the tagger's trademark.

Steps

The presence of gang or tagger graffiti is unsightly and provides notoriety for gangs. It also gives the impression of a gang presence whether or not one exists and can affect property values and the general well being of a neighborhood.

After an incident is reported to the police, the property owner or agent should take immediate steps to remove or cover up the graffiti, even if only temporarily. The importance of immediately removing or covering graffiti cannot be stressed enough.

Section 42-41(b) of the Skokie Village Code states that the existence of graffiti on any public or private property is expressly declared to be a public nuisance and it shall be unlawful for any person owning or in control of property to permit the existence of graffiti thereon. All persons owning or in control of property shall at all times keep the property free and clear of graffiti.

Section 42-41(c) states that persons in control of property must remove graffiti from their property within 10 days. If the violation is not abated within the 10-day period, the Village of Skokie, through its agent can enter upon the property and remove the graffiti. Any expense incurred by the Village in doing so shall be charged against the owner or person in control or possession and such charge may be recovered in an appropriate legal action instituted by the Corporation Counsel. The Village, in addition, may create a lien against the property involved.

Outstanding cooperation has been received from citizens in the past in accomplishing quick graffiti and tagging removal. The Skokie Police Department hopes that this cooperation will continue in the future.

Parental Responsibility

Graffiti and tagging are actions that knowingly or recklessly deface or cause damage to the property of another person without their consent.

Section 42-41(g) of the Skokie Village Code is very explicit in holding parents responsible for the actions of their minor children who commit acts of criminal defacement or damage. The Skokie Police Department has, and will continue to, take all steps necessary to apprehend and convict those parties responsible for any acts of graffiti. The parent or legal guardian of a minor, residing with that parent, will be held liable for any fine or condition of restitution or reparation imposed by the court upon a minor for any violation.