

Help Stamp Out Graffiti in Lakewood



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 or murals.
- Check school papers for graffiti "tags" and sketches of murals.
- Know with whom your children are associating and make sure you know their whereabouts. One of the things that task forces have learned is that most parents have no idea that their children are involved in these crimes.
- Remember, GRAFFITI IS A CRIME.



Neighborhood Watch

Join or start a Neighborhood Watch Program. Neighborhood Watch helps strengthen communities by encouraging residents to look out for one another and to work closely with the Police Department to address crime and livability issues in their neighborhood. For information on joining or starting a Neighborhood Watch program in your area, contact the Lakewood Police Department at 303-987-7150 and ask for the SLU Officer in your neighborhood.



Prevention Strategies

Practice "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (CPTED). CPTED is a strategy used by architects, city planners, law enforcement and others, to use the physical environment to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, including graffiti.

CPTED includes four main elements:

Territory

Use of fences, signs, landscaping, and good maintenance to convey ownership of the property.

Natural Surveillance

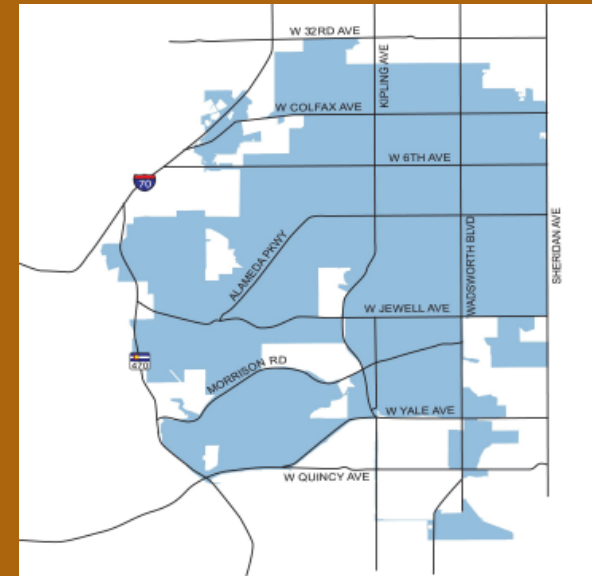
Purposeful placement of physical features and activities that maximize the ability of people in the area to see what is going on around them.

Activity Support

Positive, and legitimate activities are encouraged in public spaces, thereby discouraging criminal activity.

Access Control

Proper placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping and lighting to discourage criminal activity.



City of Lakewood
Code Enforcement
Civic Center North
480 South Allison Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80226
(303) 987-7566
www.lakewood.org

Lakewood residents and business owners can take an active part in maintaining and improving the quality and condition of properties in their neighborhood. This brochure provides an outline of information about graffiti. If you would like to know more, please contact Code Enforcement at 303-987-7566 or view the Municipal Code and Zoning Ordinance on our website at www.lakewood.org.

IF YOU RECEIVED THIS BROCHURE AND YOU HAVE BEEN TAGGED WITH GRAFFITI, please remove it. City code requires that graffiti be removed within 5 days. For questions or concerns, please contact Lakewood Code Enforcement at 303-987-7566.

City of Lakewood

Code Enforcement

Graffiti Is A Crime!

Graffiti has many faces. It is words, colors and shapes that are drawn or scratched on buildings, fences, overpasses, signs, electrical boxes and other mediums. It's done without permission and it's against the law!

Graffiti Hurts Everyone

Graffiti can be costly to remove, but leaving it sends the message that no one cares. It lowers property values and can give the perception that your neighborhood is no longer a safe place to live and play.



Keep Up The Good Work

There's no question that removing graffiti can become a frustrating venture, but once again statistics show that vandals eventually tire of their "artwork" being covered. Repeated covering may be necessary, but prompt removal sends the message that graffiti is not going to be tolerated.

What Is The Police Department Doing About Graffiti?

When an area gets hit heavily and frequently, the police can establish surveillance (electronic or by stakeout). Saturation patrols have also been effective. In some instances police will conduct a high-profile cleanup of a specific target, thereby sending a message to the criminals that this is not "their" turf. Police routinely scan the neighborhoods for graffiti and have been successful in linking graffiti to known criminals / gang members. Over 30 arrests were made in 2007, and the police department is on track to exceed this figure in 2008. In one case the suspects were sentenced to \$10,000 in restitution and 300 hours of community service!

The most important tool we have is immediate reporting (on-line at Lakewood.org or call 303-987-7111). Keeping vigilant for suspicious activity is also crucial -- report any in-progress graffiti to 911. Do not, however, attempt to intervene or contact the suspects. A partnership between police and you is vital, and the police are equally concerned about this problem. (After all, it's their neighborhood, too!)



What is Lakewood Doing About Graffiti?

The City of Lakewood is committed to removing graffiti on all City facilities and structures. Various departments throughout the City are responsible for removing graffiti on City property.

The City of Lakewood passed an ordinance in July of 2008 regulating the possession of graffiti implements. It is now illegal for minors under 18 years of age to purchase, attempt to purchase, or possess spray paint, spray paint nozzles, broad tipped marker pens, paint pens, or other substances capable of defacing property, except under the direction of, or supervision of the minor's parent, legal guardian, instructor, employer, or law enforcement officer.



How To Report Graffiti

To report graffiti in progress, call 911. To report graffiti on public or private property, call 303-987-7111. To file an online report, go to www.lakewood.org and click "Crime Reporting."

Removing Graffiti

The most common ways of removing graffiti include painting, sanding, sand blasting and removal with solvents and pressure washers.

There are numerous products on the market for graffiti removal. Check with your local hardware and building supply stores for products.

Quick Action Is The Key

The sooner graffiti is removed, the better. Research shows that removal within 24-48 hours is effective in discouraging repeat vandalism.

Owners of defaced property are reminded that City code requires graffiti to be removed within five days.

