



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, which 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.

Contact Us

Victim of graffiti?

Call: (336) 229-3500

See graffiti?

Call: (336) 222-5024

Use the Burlington Connected App



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 removing the graffiti. This is our statement back that we own these streets, and criminal conduct will not be tolerated."

-Chief J. Jeffrey Smythe

GRAFFITI

City of Burlington

A guide to Burlington's Graffiti Ordinance, Graffiti Prevention, and Abatement



What if Graffiti Happens to You?



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 the paint 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.



Has your home or business been tagged by graffiti? Here are some steps to 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 painting over the surface on which the graffiti is located.
5. If you live in a historic district or it is on a landmark, contact the Planning Department at (336) 513-5416.
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 be victims of criminal activity.
- Protect brick or cement surfaces by applying a sealant or protective coating (available at home improvement stores).
- Contact BPD for more advice on deterring graffiti and other crime on your property.

