



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

4850 Argyle Street,
Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 1V8
Tel: (250) 720-2831 Fax: (250) 723-3402 www.portalberni.ca

GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM

THE FACTS

- There are five primary motivating factors for graffiti vandalism:
 - Fame;
 - Rebellion;
 - Self-Expression;
 - Power; and
 - Marking territory.
- **Graffiti is costly:** it is estimated that \$1-\$3 per taxpayer per year is spent by communities, public transit departments, residents, and businesses to remove graffiti or repair the damage it causes.
- **Graffiti prevention efforts work:** the most effective way to prevent graffiti is to remove it promptly. Studies show that removal within 24-48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.
- **Graffiti is not a “victimless” crime:** community members, business owners, and taxpayers are hurt by it. When left untouched, graffiti sends the wrong message – that we cannot keep order in our community. This negatively affects property values by as much as 15% and often leads to more serious crimes.
- **Graffiti is frequently gang-related:** while all graffiti may not be caused by gang members, gangs often use graffiti as a form of communication or to threaten other gangs by “marking their territory”.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- Increased vandalism or damage to property;
- Lower property values;
- Heightened fear of crime;
- Public perception that community doesn't care; and
- Loss of business growth and tourism.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Focus on the 3R's:

- **Recognize:** pay attention to your property and community. Document the address and the specific location where vandalism has occurred.
- **Report:** contact the Bylaw Services Department at **250.720.2831** to report graffiti. Your information will not be shared with the public and we only require two pieces of information when you phone in: the address and details of the graffiti.
- **Remove:** whether on public or private property, this program works with property owners to clean up graffiti in a fast and effective manner. The key to removal is being prompt - the faster it is removed, the less likely a vandal is to return.



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DEFINITION

Graffiti can be defined as any writing, drawing, or symbol applied to any surface without the consent of the property owner or their agent. Graffiti is also any writing, drawing, or symbol that can be considered offensive to the community.

THE PROGRAM

The City of Port Alberni Bylaw Services Department has taken a proactive approach to graffiti within our community and has created a program to provide assistance to property owners that have been affected by vandalism. The program works as follows:

- 1) Graffiti is documented by the Bylaw Officer and the property owner is notified.
- 2) The Bylaw Officer will request voluntary compliance and participation in the Graffiti Removal Program, which includes:
 - A voucher that permits one free can of paint and one free paint brush (up to a maximum of \$60.00 CAD);
 - A list of participating vendors;
 - Instructions on how to use the voucher and a deadline for completing the work;
 - An information sheet on how to reduce the likelihood of repeat vandalism to the subject property.
- 3) If the property owner chooses to participate, the Bylaw Officer will conduct an onsite inspection after seven (7) days to verify the work has been completed.

Overall, the objective of this program is to take a three prong approach:

- (1) **The City** is responsible for ensuring a clean and safe community;
- (2) **The Property Owner** is responsible for ensuring their property is maintained; and
- (3) **The RCMP** is responsible for locating and prosecuting vandals.

The program only works if all parties participate and work together to create a safe, clean community. Your active participation is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you to enhance the safety of our community!



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INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Welcome to the Graffiti Removal Program (GRP)! The City of Port Alberni is pleased to have you participate in the GRP to ensure a clean and safe community for everyone.

Some key points to remember:

- 1) A voucher will be provided to you by a Bylaw Officer and will specify details such as:
 - Limit of one voucher per property lot;
 - An expiration date for the voucher;
 - The size of paint (qrt or gal) to be provided to you;
 - A spending limit of up to a maximum of \$60.00(CAD) for one can of paint and one paint brush; and
 - No additional items are to be included, regardless of max. budget allowance.

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

The following stores are proud participants in the Graffiti Reduction Program and you may attend any of these locations to redeem your voucher:

- Alberni Colour Corner Ltd (Benjamin Moore);
- Canadian Tire;
- Cloverdale Paint Inc;
- West Coast Home Hardware; and
- Windsor Plywood.

HOW TO REDEEM YOUR VOUCHER

Simply choose a store from the list above and provide the following:

- 1) The voucher issued to you by the Bylaw Officer within the time limitation identified; and
- 2) A 1" x 1" chip of the original paint colour to be matched to your building.

Please note that a store may take up to 48hrs to produce matching paint. You may also request a similar colour available with no wait time.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

At the till, you will be requested to write your name and sign the back of the voucher, which will be collected and returned to the City. You will have seven (7) days in total to complete the work.

If weather or special circumstances arise, please contact the Bylaw Services Department to speak with a Bylaw Officer, who will work with you to achieve compliance in a realistic and timely manner.