

Facts About Graffiti Removal

The City of La Puente wants to let its residents know that it is dedicated to graffiti abatement. The City Council has found graffiti or other vandalism to any permanent structure to be obnoxious and a public nuisance.

Did you know...

The City has staff that proactively seek and remove graffiti in public spaces everyday, totaling 5,000 staff hours and \$125,000 per year?

On a daily basis, the City removes graffiti that is visible to the public in alleys, business walls, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and light poles. The annual costs includes staff time, supplies (including chemicals, water blasting), and a vehicle used only for graffiti removal.

Did you know...

The City Council adopted an extensive ordinance on October 14, 2006 to further enforce vandals?

The ordinance defines graffiti as any inscription, word, figure, mark or design which is written, marked, etched, scratched, scribed, drawn, painted, posted or otherwise affixed to or on real property. The ordinance also states that any person who owns, conducts, or manages any business that sells aerosol spray paint or marker pens with tips that exceed four millimeters in width, and cannot be removed with water should be stored or displayed in a secured, locked place. This is so that such supplies cannot be accessible to the public except with the seller's assistance.

Did you know...

That it is unlawful for a minor to buy or be sold any graffiti implement (a substance or tool used to deface property?)

The ordinance states that any person or company that sells any type of graffiti tool, must post a sign in a visible location stating: "It is unlawful for a minor to buy or be sold spray paint, paint sticks, etching tools or markers one-eighth of an inch or wider".

Did you know...

It is unlawful for parents or legal guardians to knowingly permit a minor to possess a graffiti tool?

According to California Civil Code 1714.1 (b), any parent or legal guardian having custody of a minor can be equally liable for any and all costs in connection with the removal of any graffiti. Costs can include any attorney's fees and court costs. The City of La Puente, as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, are entitled to seek full cost recovery.

Did you know...

Any violation of the graffiti provisions in the City's ordinance is considered a misdemeanor?

Any person or minor convicted of violating any part of the ordinance and is granted probation as result of the offenses, can be subject to perform 250 hours of community service. In the past, the convicted persons have worked side by side with City staff removing graffiti.

Did you know...

The City also works with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in regulating and abating graffiti?

When graffiti occurs, the City will document the graffiti and forward the information to the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department will then track and compare the types of graffiti to identify specific individuals, which aids in arrests and prosecution of vandals. This process is done on a weekly basis, in an effort to abate graffiti within the City.

Did you know...

The City has a graffiti reward program?

A reward of \$500 will be given to anyone who provides information leading to an arrest and conviction of any person who is found in violation of the graffiti provision in the La Puente Municipal Code. **Residents are encouraged to call the graffiti hotline with any information at (626) 855-1598.** Graffiti will be removed by the City within 48 hours.

Did you know...

The Los Angeles County also has a graffiti removal program for those who live within the unincorporated areas of the County?

The Graffiti Hotline is available at (800) 675-4357. The County's graffiti removal hotline is available 24 hours a day seven days a week, and strives for a 48-hour response when calls are received via the hotline.