



REPORTING PROCESS

Report graffiti problems immediately to the police by calling 911.

- Use 911 to report any crime, even if it is not an emergency.
- Report: Before removing the graffiti call 911 and request that a police officer respond to your property to take a report. The responding officer will file a report and photograph the damage.
- Document: Take your own photos of the graffiti damage for your records. Ask the police officer for the case number in case you need a copy for your records. Contact your insurance agency to see if damage is covered.
- Identify: Work with local authorities to identify the person(s) responsible for the damage.
- Remove: Completely and quickly remove the graffiti. The property owner may be required to clean graffiti within five days.

CONTACT INFORMATION

New Hope
Community Development
763-531-5127
Fax: 763-531-5136

New Hope Police Department
To report crime: 9-1-1
Crime Prevention: 763-531-5140
Records: 763-531-5170
NKorth@ci.new-hope.mn.us

City of New Hope
4401 Xylon Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55428
612-531-5100
Fax: 763-531-5136
www.ci.new-hope.mn.us



GRAFFITI



Graffiti Enforcement,
Prevention, and Removal

Tips and Information



City of New Hope

NEW HOPE GRAFFITI ORDINANCE

Vandalizing or otherwise defacing public and private property with graffiti is a serious public nuisance. To combat the injurious effects caused by the public nuisance of graffiti, the city of New Hope enacted a graffiti ordinance.

This ordinance is not intended to re-victimize the property owners who suffer graffiti damage, but intends to create a partnership to reduce crime and improve public safety for New Hope residents and business owners. Studies show the most effective deterrent to repeated graffiti offenses is the expedient removal of graffiti. A vandal is unlikely to repeat a graffiti offense if the mark is immediately erased. Immediate cleanup also discourages rival "taggers" and gangs from committing graffiti crimes in the area.

Section 9-90 of the New Hope City Code prohibits graffiti, and the possession of a graffiti device such as a marker, spray paint can, or other device with the intent to commit graffiti-related vandalism.

If apprehended, Violators may be required to remove graffiti or pay reparations. Property owners are ultimately responsible for the removal of graffiti. The city will send a written notice and graffiti removal tips to the victim. The property owner will be required to remove the graffiti within five days of receipt of this letter. If necessary, the city may hire a contractor to perform the abatement, and then bill the property owner. During this time period, the property owner may request a hearing with city staff to discuss cleanup.

PREVENTING GRAFFITI

In addition to prompt reporting and clean-up of graffiti, the following strategies are proven to prevent recurrence of graffiti problems:

- Report suspicious activity. Call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious persons, vandalism, or graffiti.
- Make sure your property is well maintained and cared for. Nicely maintained buildings and grounds discourage vandalism.
- Increase lighting around your property, and trim vegetation to allow observation of suspicious activity.
- Form a neighborhood watch program in your area. Inform your neighbors and police of graffiti.

GRAFFITI CLEANUP

Grffiti removal methods vary based on the surface and graffiti used. Consult a cleanup contractor or hardware store for your specific needs.

Warning! Many graffiti cleanup products are toxic. Read manufacturer directions and protect yourself and others from these products.

Grffiti is easiest to remove immediately after it occurs. This discourages the perpetrator from striking again. Delayed cleanup often requires harsher solvents, more scrubbing, and a greater chance of damage to the vandalized surface.

CLEANUP (CONTINUED)

Concrete, Brick, or Cement: Use extra strength paint remover. Apply with a wire brush, and allow to dry. Rinse with water. Repeat if necessary.

Stucco: Apply extra strength paint remover. Seal area with primer such as "KILZ" and paint over with stucco paint.

Vinyl Siding: Use paint remover sparingly, and test first on an inconspicuous area. Use a small amount and wipe each time with a clean rag. Repaint if necessary. Clean promptly to avoid damage.

Aluminum siding: Use "Goof-off" or "Oops" for latex paints. Oil paints may be cleaned with paint remover, but use sparingly and test first on a small area.

Wood: Unpainted- remove with paint thinner and re-stain/varnish. On painted wood, seal with a stain killing primer such as "KILZ" and repaint.

Glass and Plexiglas surfaces: Use carburetor cleaner and a clean rag.

Metal: Use carburetor cleaner. If this doesn't work, use paint thinner.

More information is coming soon to the city of New Hope website at:

www.ci.new-hope.mn.us

Purchase the above products at home improvement, hardware, and paint stores, including New Hope businesses:

Frattallone's Ace Hardware,
3566 Winnetka Ave North