



# City of Danbury – Police Department

## Community Service Division

375 Main Street Danbury, Connecticut 06810 (203) 203-796-1635



# Graffiti

Graffiti is defined as writing, drawings or symbols applied to any surface without the consent of the property owner, authorized agent or designate. 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. When left unattended, graffiti may contribute to an escalation to more serious vandalism and other crimes in the community. Studies have shown that when graffiti markings are left unattended for as little as a week, there is almost a 100% chance that additional graffiti markings will be placed at the original site or in the nearby community.

If you see a graffiti crime **IN PROGRESS**, please contact the Danbury Police Department immediately at 203-797-4614. Please provide a complete description of the perpetrators and/or vehicles involved, including license plate numbers. **NEVER APPROACH OR CONFRONT THE VANDALS YOURSELF.**

**Graffiti vandalism is a crime. Report graffiti to the police before you remove it. Call the Danbury Police Department's Graffiti Task Force at 203-796-1662.**

Remove graffiti as quickly as possible within 24 hours. Eradication denies the vandals the recognition they desire. Repeated paint overs may be needed. Prompt removal sends the message that graffiti is not going to be tolerated in that area. Eventually the vandals will get the message. Only use matching paint. Keep a can of matching paint and graffiti remover on your premises.

## GRAFFITI PREVENTION TIPS

- **CLEAN AND MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY-** Rid your property of litter and encourage your neighbors to do the same. A dilapidated environment can appear unrestrictive and can lead to acts of vandalism.
- **LANDSCAPE YOUR PROPERTY-** Plant shrubs, ivy or vines in front of blank walls. This will not only add character to your property but will also make the surface no longer accessible or attractive to vandals.
- **INSTALL LIGHTING ON YOUR PROPERTY-** Install lighting that has a motion-detector and install it high enough that it is out of reach. Graffiti vandals prefer to work in the semi-darkness and will be intimidated by the light.
- **INSTALL SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS-** Install surveillance cameras and post warning signs. Motion-sensitive cameras take photos when they detect movement. Some cameras even have speakers that inform intruders that police have been called and to leave the area.