

IDEA BOOK

A collection of suggestions to help eliminate graffiti vandalism.

Look around you. We are living in one of the most beautiful cities in all of Canada. The Meewasin Valley at dusk, what an awesome scene to behold. Now, take a closer look. Under the bridges, on the playgrounds, in our communities. That beauty is being tarnished daily by graffiti vandalism. Criminal acts of uncaring, inconsiderate individuals are destroying the beauty we are trying so hard to preserve.

Our goal is to provide you with the tools to join in and help clean up our scene! Whenever you wipe, scrape, erase or paint over graffiti, you are building a more beautiful and safer city. Whenever you talk about it, read about it or teach about graffiti removal you are furthering the cause.

In this Idea Book you will find easy to use information on how to remove graffiti; graffiti facts; suggestions for how to plan a *"Graffiti Wipe Out Day"* and where to call for more information.

Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction. We urge you to read on and turn these ideas into reality; or build on them and add your own ideas; or, at the very least, pass this on to someone who is passionate about the state of our city and motivated to do something about it.

Sincerely,

Community Development Branch,
City of Saskatoon

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Graffiti Wipe Out Day Checklist

So you'd like to have a wipe out day – congratulations! You're on your way to making a big difference in your community! This simple checklist will help you get started planning the big event.

Form a **Planning Committee** – depending how large your project is, you may need a few interested individuals to organize your Wipe Out Day.

Set a **date**.

Plan the day's **itinerary**. Here's an example:

- 10:00 am Volunteers meet at a predetermined location
- 10:05 am Take a “before” photo of graffiti vandalism
- 10:15 am Start painting, removing, sanding & cleaning
- Noon Lunch Break
- 12:30 pm Continue Graffiti Wipe Out Day activities
- 4:00 pm Finish – Take “after” picture
- 4:15 pm Congratulate everyone on a job well done!

Roles and responsibilities. How many people will you need and what are their jobs? Before you recruit help, you will need an idea of job descriptions and how many volunteers are required. A few examples:

Painters	Lunch Preps	Cleaners
Sanders	Lunch Server	Driver(s)

Get permission from residents, neighbours, etc. prior to painting over any graffiti.

Tell people about it! Display posters, advertise in your newsletter, on your web site, call your friends, write an article for your church bulletin, and make sure to send us your event details so we can share it with the media.

Gather **materials**. You will need various removal supplies, depending on the *type* of graffiti and what it's *on*. There's a chart in this booklet providing suggestions for what works best on different surfaces.

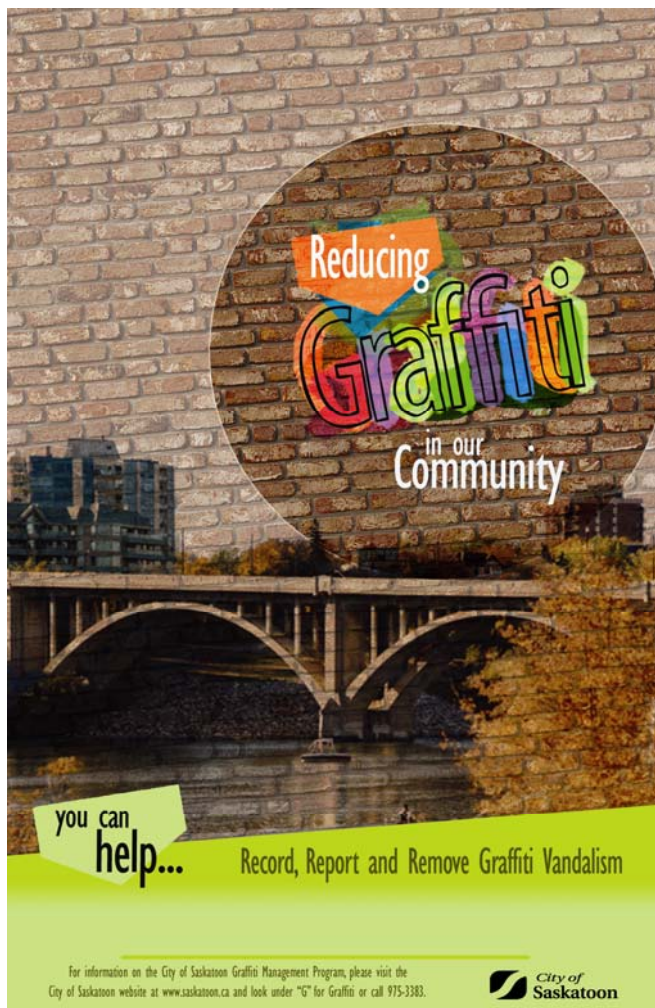
Wipe out the **graffiti** in your neighborhood.

Graffiti Campaign Posters

The City of Saskatoon, Community Development Branch, has a supply of “Reducing Graffiti in our Community” posters.

Please help spread the word by ...

Displaying this poster on your bulletin board
Promoting your own Graffiti Wipe Out activities



For more posters please call:

975-3383

Graffiti Facts and Impacts in Saskatoon

The following information is provided by the Saskatoon City Police Service:

Did you know

- 95% of all graffiti in Saskatoon is tagger or hip hop graffiti. The purpose of this graffiti is for individuals to establish identity and recognition amongst their peers. The higher the visibility of the “tag”, or the more dangerous the place it’s in, the more “fame value” there is in it.
- In Saskatoon, gang graffiti is almost non-existent. Gang graffiti conveys a message being either loyalty to the gang, marking territory, showing presence or threatening rival gangs.
- Who is a tagger?
 - Typically male between 10-25 years
 - Middle to upper middle class
 - Not involved in extracurricular activities
 - Has low self esteem
 - Gives them a feeling of power
 - Carries a backpack of “tools” (spray paint, markers, etc...)
 - Many are involved in theft, drug and alcohol use
 - Most taggers know each other – it’s a subculture
- If you clean up graffiti ...
 - Within **24 hours** there’s a **10%** chance it will reappear
 - Within **2 weeks** there’s a **100%** chance it will reappear
 - After **six months** to a year there’s a **1000%** chance it will reappear
- **The best solution is to remove it immediately and to keep removing it. Eventually they will give up.**
- An elderly lady was upset because of graffiti vandalism to her garage and she was told the best way to prevent the crime from happening again was to cover the graffiti up as soon as possible. She began to cry. She and her husband painted the garage last summer. He passed away shortly after that and it was one of the last jobs she did with him. Vandals destroyed her fond memory.
- The City of Saskatoon Police Service has a variety of educational materials available for public use. These include **“Kyle the Graffiti Fighting Bear”** – a story book for children K- gr. 3; and various **hand outs** and **presentation** materials including a Power Point presentation. For presentation materials please contact Cnst. Lee Jones at **975-8300** email **lee.jones@police.saskatoon.sk.ca**

Graffiti Removal Chart

SURFACE	REMOVAL PRODUCT	DIRECTIONS	OTHER
Brick, cement or concrete	Extra strength paint remover	Apply with wire brush. Let soak. Rinse with pressure hose.	Grit sandpaper can be used on flat surfaces (will scratch). Use sealer after removal.
Stucco	Paint remover	Use cloth or rag and rinse with pressure hose. Use stucco paint and go over graffiti carefully.	Consider sealer as a finishing coat.
Aluminum/vinyl siding	Experiment with paint remover (sparingly)	Constantly use a clean rag.	Will probably have to repaint.
Wood	Paint thinner, acetone, primer, paint	First try thinner or acetone. On latex or oil-based paint, use a stain-blocking primer. Re-paint.	Consider a sealer coat.
Fiberglass	Paint thinner	Work your way up the thinner list. Use full-strength and rinse carefully.	
Glass or plexi-glass	Razor blade, paint thinners	Scrape paint off carefully. If using solvents on plexi be careful to read the label to see if it is compatible with that surface as some will fog or mar plexi.	Rinse thoroughly with water.
Metal	Solvent, paint remover.	Constantly use a clean rag. If unsuccessful try paint remover.	
Etching	Fillers, replace	Gouges in surfaces must be filled or replaced.	

Other Graffiti Reduction Programs

The Graffiti Reduction Task Force (GRTF)

This unique partnership between business, government and non-governmental organizations has a mandate to reduce graffiti in Saskatoon. Since forming in April, 2000, they have implemented a number of programs aimed at reducing the incidence of graffiti in our communities. Following are two programs developed by the GRTF for residential graffiti education and removal.

Graffiti Removal Kits

If you have experienced graffiti vandalism in your residential neighborhood and would like to remove it, kits are available from your local **community association**. These kits contain brushes, rollers, scrapers and gloves for you to use in your own graffiti removal efforts. For more information on how to obtain a kit please contact your local community association.

Canada Post Street Furniture Clean Up

Canada Post Corporation will be running an extensive campaign to remove graffiti from postal street furniture throughout Saskatoon and Corman Park during the Graffiti Wipe Out Campaign. The furniture includes letter boxes, grey relay boxes, and group and community mail boxes. Up to 500 pieces of furniture will be cleaned. In the past, Canada Post has cleaned furniture based on requests from the community however this clean-up campaign was initiated due to Canada Post's affiliation with the Graffiti Reduction Task Force and their commitment to the community.

Where to Call for More Information

<u>Item</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Wipe Out Idea Books and Posters	975-3383
Graffiti Removal Kits	Local Community Associations
Story Books (K- gr. 3) Presentation Materials	Constable Lee Jones Saskatoon Police Service 975-8300 lee.jones@police.saskatoon.sk.ca