

DO YOU KNOW THE 3D'S OF GRAFFITI PREVENTION ?

DETER IT

There are steps that you can take to prevent being a victim of graffiti vandalism. Here are the basics:

Install motion sensor lighting to alert you to vandals and scare them away. When asked, graffiti vandals admit their biggest fear is getting caught. Make it as difficult for them as possible. **Good lighting is one of the best deterrents!**

Incorporate natural deterrents, such as shrubs, thorny plants and vines to restrict vandal access.

Access Control...is a way to deter crime of all kinds. The proper placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping, and lighting discourage criminal activity.

If you own a home or business in a high graffiti area, consider pooling resources with your neighbors and investing in a motion activated camera that can be shared among you. Cameras such as these can be strategically and discreetly located to capture photos of the vandals in the act.

Get the word out!

Coos Bay is offering a \$50 reward to anyone providing information which leads to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals. Most studies show the majority of "taggers" are males between 12 and 21 years old. Approximately 15% of graffiti vandals are young females. Talk to your kids about the potential reward and have them tell their friends.

If your property gets hit by graffiti vandals, or you see graffiti anywhere in the city, report it.

DOCUMENT IT

Reporting graffiti is easy, takes about 5 minutes to report & could possibly entitle you to a \$50 reward.

As soon as you see graffiti, report it. Use one of the following ways to provide us information:

- * Call the Coos Bay PD business line (541) 269-8911.
- * Email StopGraffiti@police.coosbay.org and include the following information:

Your full contact information.
Where & when it occurred or you first discovered it.
A description of the graffiti, along with any suspect information you may have.

If you can, grab your camera or phone and take a few pictures to submit with your report. Photos can be sent as attachments to your emailed report.

- * Call the Coos Stop Crime anonymous crime reporting hotline (541) 267-6666.
- * Online at www.coosbay.org
From the blue tabs across the top select *City Hall*, then select *Police Department* and scroll down to *Graffiti*. Click on *Email your graffiti report...* and provide the above graffiti information.

IF YOU ARE A WITNESS TO GRAFFITI VANDALISM AS IT IS HAPPENING—DIAL 911.

Be ready to provide as much information as possible about the suspect and location.

DEAL WITH IT!

Remove graffiti promptly!

Graffiti sends the signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency to the neighborhood.

Graffiti decreases a resident's feeling of safety. Neighborhoods with graffiti see a decrease in property values and a loss of business growth and tourism.

In addition, graffiti generates the perception of blight and heightens fear of "gang activity" reports the U.S. Department of Justice. The appearance of graffiti is often perceived by residents and passers-by as a sign that a downward spiral has begun, even though this may not be true.

Patrons of buildings, parks, or public facilities where graffiti vandalism has occurred may feel that if graffiti is tolerated, then other more serious crimes, such as theft and assault, may also go unchallenged.

While removing graffiti promptly may be difficult, studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.

Once graffiti is cleaned up, work to change the environment so that it does not occur again in that location. Crime prevention strategies such as changing lighting, landscape, and access to property are effective tools.

graffiti is property vandalism
it's not art
it's not ok

