



Graffiti



What is Graffiti?

The Crime of Graffiti

Graffiti is defined as the defacement of public or personal property by means of painting, marking, etching or altering by other means without permission.

Our Most Costly Property Crime

Graffiti is the #1 property crime in Northern Nevada.

Graffiti Vandalism Affects Property Values

It is estimated that up to \$25,000 can be reduced from the appraised value of a home when there is visible graffiti in the area.

Graffiti Can Bring Down a Neighborhood

Graffiti attracts other types of crime and accelerates neighborhood decay.

Graffiti Vandals Are Criminals

Graffiti vandalism is a serious crime. Graffiti is not a minor crime or quality of life issue. It is not just a juvenile problem. Most graffiti vandals are involved in other types of crimes. When a graffiti vandal is arrested, other types of crimes are likely being prevented.

Graffiti Is a Crime That Can Be Controlled

The key elements of controlling and managing graffiti are education, enforcement and eradication. With effective investigation and enforcement, Deputies can help to fight graffiti in Washoe County.

Graffiti Vandals

Where Graffiti Comes From

While traditional gangs are active in placing graffiti, more than 80% of graffiti is placed by graffiti vandals called "taggers". Most taggers belong to gangs called "tag crews", or "tag krews".

Why They Tag

The tagger's motivation is property damage and personal recognition, or "fame". They gain this fame by placing mass amounts of graffiti and tagging difficult or dangerous locations. Many taggers claim to be addicted to graffiti and tell investigators that they cannot stop tagging.

Graffiti: A Gateway Crime

Taggers are attracted to graffiti because they have little respect for themselves and the property of others. The individuals who are drawn to graffiti involvement are impulsive and have little regard for the law. Taggers will often become involved in other types of crime, including crimes of violence.

Identifying a Graffiti Vandal

The Profile

Most active graffiti vandals are males age 13 to 30. They are from all socioeconomic backgrounds; however most are from middle to upper middle class families.

The Equipment

Many taggers will wear loose fitting clothing which allows them to conceal their graffiti implements. Some will use a backpack which they call a "tag bag". The items they will use include multiple cans of spray paint, large markers, pre-tagged stickers called "slappers", special spray-paint can tip kits and practice books they call "piecebooks" or "blackbooks".

The Methods

Taggers will most often tag walls and areas which are highly visible to the public and other taggers. This is how they achieve their mission and gain fame. More daring taggers will use repelling gear, drop ladders, ropes, roll ladders or other means to tag bridges, overpasses and freeway signs. The more difficult the location, the more fame a tagger will gain. Occasionally taggers will vandalize police vehicles and buildings. It is a sure way to gain fast credibility in the graffiti world.

The Attitude

Taggers want nothing to do with legal methods of placing art. In order for their work to be "real graffiti", it must be illegal.

What can you do?

Your participation by reporting and accurately documenting tags help police and District Attorneys build strong cases that result in prosecution.

You can report the graffiti online at **WashoeSheriff.com** or download our Sheriff's Office App to report graffiti on location.

Identifying a Graffiti Vandal

The Profile

Most active graffiti vandals are males age 13 to 30. They are from all socioeconomic backgrounds; however most are from middle to upper middle class families.

The Equipment

Many taggers will wear loose fitting clothing which allows them to conceal their graffiti implements. Some will use a backpack which they call a "tag bag". The items they will use include multiple cans of spray paint, large markers, pre-tagged stickers called "slappers", special spray-paint can tip kits and practice books they call "piecebooks" or "blackbooks".

The Methods

Taggers will most often tag walls and areas which are highly visible to the public and other taggers. This is how they achieve their mission and gain fame. More daring taggers will use repelling gear, drop ladders, ropes, roll ladders or other means to tag bridges, overpasses and freeway signs. The more difficult the location, the more fame a tagger will gain. Occasionally taggers will vandalize police vehicles and buildings. It is a sure way to gain fast credibility in the graffiti world.

The Attitude

Taggers want nothing to do with legal methods of placing art. In order for their work to be "real graffiti", it must be illegal.

What can you do?

Your participation by reporting and accurately documenting tags help police and District Attorneys build strong cases that result in prosecution.

You can report the graffiti online at **WashoeSheriff.com** or download our Sheriff's Office App to report graffiti on location.