

# Tagging Is a Crime



August 2007

If you witness graffiti in progress, call 9-1-1 immediately.

**The best defense:** The best defense against graffiti is prompt clean up. Taggers do not get satisfaction when their work is painted over or removed.

**Responsibility for clean up:** If the graffiti is on private property, the owner is responsible for clean up.

### Contacts for public property:

- For downtown businesses, call the ODA (Olympia Downtown Association) at (360) 357-8948.
- For signs, City property, garbage/recycle cans, call Public Works at (360) 753-8588.
- For City parks, call Parks, Arts, and Recreation, at (360) 753-8380.
- For state buildings or parks (Heritage, Marathon, and Sylvester), call (360) 725-0015.
- For PSE power boxes, call Puget Sound Energy at (888) 225-5773.
- For Qwest boxes, call Qwest Repair Services at (800) 573-1311

**Graffiti kits:** The Public Works Department provides graffiti removal kits free of charge to recognized Neighborhood Associations & Block Watch neighborhoods. To request a kit, call (360) 753-8588, or email [publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us).

If you are not part of a Neighborhood Association or Block Watch and you would like to make your own graffiti removal kit, visit [www.olympiawa.gov/cityservices](http://www.olympiawa.gov/cityservices) for information on how to make your own.



**Report suspicious activity:** It can be difficult to successfully prosecute a graffiti case unless someone actually witnesses the crime in progress. This truly is a crime that the public can help fight by keeping neighborhoods free of graffiti and reporting suspicious activity.

**Reporting:** If you need a police report, call (360) 704-2740 (non-emergency dispatch). Graffiti is also addressed under the International Property Maintenance Code as administered by Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement holds the property owner responsible for restoring the surface to a state of repair. For more information, call (360) 753-8487. Please have an exact address when calling.

*The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.*

[www.olympiawa.gov](http://www.olympiawa.gov)

**Pictures:** If you have the ability to take pictures of graffiti before it is removed, we may be able to discern patterns that could result in leads. Also, we would like to use graffiti to help us gather information about any possible gang activity in the area. Please email pictures to [graffiti@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:graffiti@ci.olympia.wa.us).

### Don't damage property by mistake:

- Do not remove graffiti from the front of traffic signs (stop, speed limit, etc.) as it destroys the reflective material. If you have graffiti on a traffic sign, please call Public Works at (360) 753-8588.
- Do not power wash historical buildings.
- Sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Options to remove graffiti from sidewalks include:
  - Utilize the GrafLite cleaner included in bucket, or
  - Power (pressure) wash the sidewalk.
- Pervious sidewalks: To remove graffiti from pervious sidewalks, do not use chemicals, just pressure wash. Do not paint pervious concrete to cover graffiti, as the paint will clog the pores in the concrete. For more information, call (360) 753-8588.

### For more information:

- On graffiti buckets: Call Public Works at (360) 753-8588, (360) 753-8270 TTY, or email [publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us)
- Reporting graffiti: Call the Olympia Police Department at (360) 753-8300, (360) 753-8270 TTY, or email [graffiti@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:graffiti@ci.olympia.wa.us)