

# What Is Graffiti

Graffiti means any inscription, word, figure or designs marked, scratched, etched, drawn or painted with spray paint, liquid paint, ink, chalk, dye or other similar substances on buildings, fences, structures, equipment and similar places.

Graffiti is illegal. It is a crime. It is the destruction of public and private property. It spreads fear in all neighborhoods. It is a financial burden for citizens and businesses.

Inactivity by citizens or business owners communicates a lack of interest by the community, which indicates a willingness to give the area to the graffiti vandals.

## To report graffiti:

- call or e-mail our department
- please include the address of the property if the graffiti is located on a building
- if the graffiti is on items, such as, street lights, post office boxes, or bus shelters give the names of the intersecting streets located near the item

**CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES  
ANTI-GRAFFITI HOTLINE  
286-8715**

**E-MAIL: [graffiti@milwaukee.gov](mailto:graffiti@milwaukee.gov)**

## Dispelling three graffiti myths:

### 1. *Graffiti is art and is done by artists.*

It is not art. It is organized illegal vandalism. It is a crime! Taggers are not artists; taggers are vandals engaging in criminal activity.

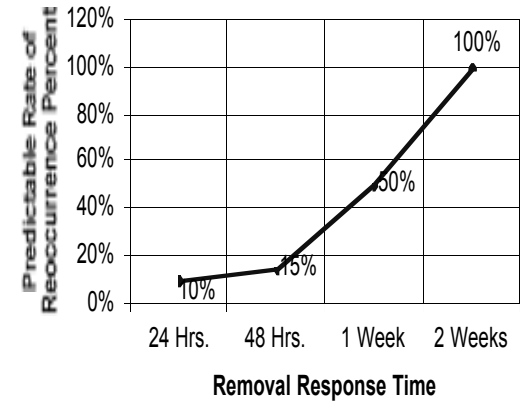
### 2. *The pictures are pretty & should stay.*

The colors are vivid, but the message and meaning is violence. They are not pretty pictures. The tags are signs of criminal activity. As taggers bring more graffiti into an area, more graffiti brings more illegal activity and violence.

### 3. *Give taggers a permission wall and graffiti will be contained to that location.*

This is a myth that is being dispelled by cities that have permission walls. The walls brought garbage and toxic paint cans into the area as litter. Graffiti in the adjoining streets increased 300%. The walls brought outcries from the residents, who no longer felt safe. Cities found it necessary to clean the area daily and have police in the area to avert fighting among the different taggers.

**Graffiti Tolerance vs. Zero Tolerance**



## **Graffiti must be dealt with quickly Zero Tolerance + Swift Action = Results**

*Call 911 if you see graffiti vandalism in progress.*

In reporting locations with graffiti, call the City of Milwaukee, Department of Neighborhood Services – Graffiti Hotline at 286-8715. If you are the property owner of the property that has graffiti on it, please call 933-4444 to report it to the Milwaukee Police Department.

Call the following numbers to directly report the graffiti on identifiable property. Let the owners know you are concerned and are not turning your neighborhood over to vandals.

#### **BILLBOARD COMPANIES**

Eller Media Signs  
414-506-9030

Outdoor Systems  
1-800-759-3838

Lamar Advertising  
414-257-3999

#### **DUMPSTER COMPANIES**

Commercial Rubbish  
414-747-0770

Cotton Disposal  
262-542-2800

Eddy's Rubbish Removal  
414-445-5440

LTS Services  
414-801-7200

Peter Wolin Co., Inc  
414-353-6300

Superior of Wisconsin  
262-369-3053

Waste Management  
262-251-4000

#### **BUS COMPANY**

Milwaukee County Transit System  
414-937-3237

#### **JOURNAL BOXES**

Milwaukee Journal – Sentinel  
414-224-2698

#### **RAILROAD COMPANIES**

Canadian Pacific Railroad  
414-389-3783

Union Pacific Railroad  
414-267-4222

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad  
414-438-8820

#### **GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

County Highway Commission  
414-257-6566

Milwaukee County Parks  
414-258-2322

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District  
414-344-3930

Milwaukee Public Schools  
414-283-4718

United States Postal Service  
414-270-2404

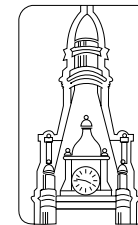
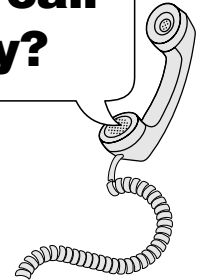
#### **UTILITY COMPANY**

WE Energies  
414-362-5121

# ***CITIZEN'S RESPONSE GUIDE TO GRAFFITI***

## ***PICK UP THE PHONE!***

**We're just a  
phone call  
away?**



**City of Milwaukee  
Department of  
Neighborhood  
Services**