

UNDERSTANDING & REPORTING GRAFFITI

Graffiti is vandalism done without permission. It is the unauthorized application of markings on property.

Street art and graffiti are not one and the same.
(Please see ORS 164.383 or Portland City Code 14B.80)

TYPES OF GRAFFITI REPORTED IN PORTLAND:

TAGGER—80-85%

COMMUNICATIVE/POLITICAL—2-3%

GANG—2-10%

HATE—1-3%

TAGGER GRAFFITI is the most prevalent type in Portland. Somewhere *between 80 - 85% of all graffiti in Portland fits this description*. It may be simple line-letters, or elaborate, colorful designs, “pieces” or “throw-ups.” Most of the taggers arrested in Portland are not juveniles. The median age for taggers in Portland is 20 years of age. Taggers may travel or associate with a crew whose members may all use one tag plus their own moniker, and hang out together. Some taggers aspire to be recognized for their artwork – larger, showier pieces that may include a moniker that’s colorful in design. The photos to the right are examples of tags.

EXAMPLES OF TAGGER

CREW NAMES:

- **AIDS** – Art Is Dying Slowly
- **NQD** – Not Quite Dead
- **HOD, HODK** – Hand of Doom
- **MLS** – My Life Sucks, Most Likely Suspects
- **UWC** – Unwashed Criminals
- **KWC** – Kuz We Can, Kids With Cans
- **VRS** – Vandal Ran Society
- **AOL** – Always Out Late
- **PKC** – Please Kill Cops



GANG GRAFFITI *accounts for about 2-10% of all graffiti vandalism in Portland*. In some neighborhoods, it is a higher percentage of the graffiti. Gang graffiti is a way gang members communicate with each other. Most of the gang graffiti seen in Portland is done by juveniles who wish to emulate gang culture.

Local Gang Graffiti Tags:

- SUR** – Sureno
- STC** – Sureno Treces Califas
- X3** – 13th St.
- XV3** – 18th St.
- 310** – area code
- PRB** – Paso Robles Boys
- 503** – area code



COMMUNICATIVE / POLITICAL GRAFFITI

Accounts for approximately 2 - 3% of all graffiti reported in Portland. Much of this graffiti is seen on City property, like STOP signs, because the vandal only has to write one or two words under STOP to get their message across.



HATE GRAFFITI

Accounts for less than 1% of all reported graffiti in the City of Portland. Reports of hate graffiti are taken very seriously and we work to get these cases removed as quickly as possible. **In cases of hate graffiti, please email: graffiti@portlandoregon.gov, with 'hate graffiti and the address in the subject line. Include photos and if you have the means of covering or safely removing the graffiti, please do so. Do not attempt to remove any graffiti, hate messages included, from public art. Please cover the graffiti until a professional can assess the damage.**



WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE GRAFFITI?

REPORT IT

- Online via PDXReporter.org
- Via email: send pictures and locations to graffiti@portlandoregon.gov
- Although pictures expedite the removal process, you can call the Office of Neighborhood Involvement's Graffiti Hotline – 503-823-4824
 - OR – Police Non-Emergency 503-823-3333 (weekends or holidays)
 - OR – If you witness it occurring, 9-1-1

REMOVE IT

- Paint it out or take it off if it is on your property or place of business.
- If you need free assistance, please email graffiti@portlandoregon.gov to put in a request if yours is an owner-occupied residential property, non-profit, or small business location (10 or fewer employees).
- Volunteer to remove from properties in the public right-of-way: Go to our main webpage at www.portlandoregon.gov/oni, click on the Graffiti tab, and find information about the Graffiti Abatement Volunteer Program.
- Addressing chronic locations – for your own property, contact your neighborhood Crime Prevention Program Coordinator* for a free environmental design consultation. They can provide tips to make your property more secure and less vulnerable to graffiti and other vandalism.

Note: All online reports are automatically sent to Graffiti Abatement for referral to responsible agency for removal. Public property is cleaned by a number of agencies, representing City of Portland; Multnomah County; Metro; State of Oregon; and US Postal Service to name a few. We make every attempt to contact property owners via phone or

*USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS:

Graffiti Hotline: 503-823-4824

Graffiti Abatement Program Coordinator: 503-823-9666

Crime Prevention General Line: 503-823-4064

Police Non-Emergency: 503-823-3333