

# WIPE OUT GRAFFITI - A Merchant's Guide

*Mission statement: "To enhance the community through the administration of a fair and unbiased compliance program."*



The Code Enforcement Division conducts periodic inspections of all merchants in the city known to sell graffiti related products. This valuable inspection program seeks to both educate those businesses not in compliance, as well as remind all merchants who sell graffiti related implements that the city is committed to eliminating graffiti for the betterment of the community and their role with those efforts.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ▶ **Storage of Graffiti Implements**  
Graffiti implements cannot be available to the public without employee assistance.
- ▶ **Selling of Graffiti Implements**  
No merchant or person may sell, deliver or give graffiti implements to any person under the age of eighteen (18) years. A violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor and enforced by the City of Avondale Police Department.
- ▶ **Definitions of Graffiti Implements**
  - **Aerosol paint** — Any aerosol container that contains anything other than a solution which can be removed with water after the solution dries.
  - **Broad tip markers** — Any marker or similar implement which has a writing tip which is 1/2 inch wide or greater and contains anything other than a solution that can be removed with water after the solution dries.
  - **Etching implements** — Tools, implements, products or solutions manufactured for the purpose of permanently altering glass, metal or other surfaces.
  - **Paint stick, graffiti stick or bleeder** — An implement containing paint, wax, epoxy or any other similar substance.

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## KEEP YOUR PROPERTY GRAFFITI FREE!

Graffiti is the most common type of property vandalism (35%) according to the Bureau of Justice statistics.

### ▶ Graffiti Prevention

- The most effective way to prevent graffiti is to remove it promptly. Studies show that removal within 24-48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.
- Report graffiti to the Police Department.
- Restrict access to graffiti-prone areas by planting trees or other greenery.
- Install lighting in areas that are dark and targets for graffiti.
- Use a graffiti resistant surface treatment.

### ▶ Graffiti Removal

- All surfaces including, but not limited to, buildings, walls, parking lots, signs, fences, and dumpsters must be kept graffiti free.
- Avondale city code requires that graffiti be removed from any surface within forty-eight (48) hours.
- A citation may be issued if graffiti has not been removed within allotted time.

### ▶ To Report Graffiti Crime

Please contact the Avondale Police Department if you observe graffiti in progress or to file a police report for criminal damage to your property.

- 9-1-1 / NON-EMERGENCY: (623) 333-7000

### ▶ To Report Graffiti Needing To Be Removed

Please contact the Code Enforcement Division with the property address or cross-street locations. Reports can be submitted via phone, email, or mobile phone app.

- GRAFFITI HOTLINE: (623) 333-2702

## CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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