

# **Graffiti Removal Programs**

The City of Long Beach has a well-earned national reputation for its innovative and effective programs for controlling the modern blight of graffiti. These include a Free Paint Program for property owners choosing to remove the graffiti themselves; a Graffiti Removal Program which utilizes a professional Paint Contractor to insure perfect paint match when necessary; the use of misdemeanor offenders performing community service by removing graffiti from major city corridors; a Graffiti Prevention Landscape Program that provides graffiti-deterrent vines and shrubs for walls and fences attractive to graffiti vandals; and a Graffiti Hotline for citizens to report "graffiti sightings" or request free paint.

## **Free Paint Program**

### **WHAT IS THE FREE PAINT PROGRAM?**

The Free Paint Program provides free paint to be used specifically for removing graffiti from the exterior of buildings.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE FREE PAINT PROGRAM?**

Any owner or occupant of private property located in the City of Long Beach is eligible to receive free paint for the purpose of removing graffiti.

### **HOW DO I GET THE FREE PAINT?**

Call the 24-hour GRAFFITI HOTLINE at (562) 570-2773. Leave your name, address, daytime telephone number, and the exact location of graffiti on the property that you own or occupy. City staff will then verify the location of graffiti. You will receive a voucher number and information on how to pick up your free paint.

## **Graffiti Removal Program**

### **WHAT IS THE GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM?**

It is a City-operated program to remove graffiti from private property as quickly as possible in order to improve neighborhoods and discourage further graffiti. The program is offered citywide at no cost to property owners or tenants.

### **HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?**

Just call the 24-hour GRAFFITI HOTLINE at (562) 570-2773. Leave your name, address, daytime phone number, and the exact location of graffiti on your property. After we have your written consent to remove graffiti from the property, a licensed painting contractor or volunteers will remove the graffiti within about two weeks. Every effort will be made to match colors, but the cleaned, processed, or coated area may not match precisely.

## **WHAT PROPERTIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?**

Properties eligible for continuous removal services are limited to single-family homes, apartment buildings of 4 units or less, and small neighborhood serving commercial/retail buildings of less than 2,000 square feet.

## **WILL ALL GRAFFITI BE REMOVED FROM MY PROPERTY?**

Graffiti will be removed only from portions of the property visible from a street. In alleyways, graffiti will be removed only within 100 feet of the alley entrance as measured from the street curb.

## **CAN I GET FREE PAINT TO REMOVE THE GRAFFITI?**

Yes! The City encourages private citizens individually or collectively to remove graffiti from private property. Such efforts expedite removal of graffiti and can significantly reduce the expenditure of public funds.

Call the 24-hour GRAFFITI HOTLINE at (562) 570-2773. Leave your name, address, daytime telephone number, and the exact location of graffiti on the property that you own or occupy. City staff will then verify the location of graffiti. You will receive a voucher number and information on how to pick up your free paint.

## **HOW DO I REPORT GRAFFITI ON OTHER PROPERTY?**

Just call the GRAFFITI HOTLINE. Report the exact address location of the graffiti, your name, address, and daytime telephone number. City staff will then contact the property owner to obtain consent to have the graffiti removed.

## **Graffiti Prevention Landscape Program**

### **WHAT IS THE GRAFFITI PREVENTION LANDSCAPE PROGRAM?**

The Graffiti Prevention Landscape Program provides commercial and residential property owners within federally designated areas with a reimbursement of **up to \$1,000** for plants, materials, concrete removal, permanent planters, and/or labor to install landscaping to prevent instances of graffiti vandalism. **Grass is not eligible.** Sprinklers **may be** eligible, depending on the type of landscaping.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Owners of commercial and large residential properties (4 or more units) who have **buildings and/or walls** visible from the street that have been or may be vandalized by graffiti and must be currently utilizing the Home Improvement Rebate Program or the Commercial Rebate Program to be eligible for this program.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

You must complete an application and a plot plan and submit it to the Neighborhood Services Bureau, along with your Home Improvement Rebate or Commercial Rebate application. Upon receipt of your applications, ownership of the property will be verified and eligibility will be determined.

## WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

We will reimburse **up to \$1,000** for plants, materials, concrete removal, permanent planters, potted planters, and/or labor. Sprinklers **may** be eligible.

The following conditions apply:

- **Landscaping must be completed as a means to prevent graffiti** on walls. The area to be planted (including alleyways) **must be visible from the street and must be a potential graffiti target.**
- Plants must be selected from the City's approved list. Your project description and plot/plan diagram will determine the quantity of plants.
- The cost of planting materials such as fertilizer, planting soil, stakes and trellises are eligible.
- Delivery/installation costs are eligible.
- Sprinkler systems that provide landscape maintenance may be eligible upon coordinator's approval (sprinklers are not for grass).
- Plants must be placed in the ground, planter boxes, permanent pots, and/or on trellises.
- Plants are to be maintained in good condition.
- Home improvements or Commercial improvements must also be completed.
- **DO NOT** buy materials or start work until you receive a Certificate of Eligibility.

## WHAT KINDS OF PLANTS ARE ALLOWED?

Shrubs and vines.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (562) 570-6866 OR E-MAIL US AT [mavilla@longbeach.gov](mailto:mavilla@longbeach.gov)**