

# RED WAGON PAINT OUT

Seattle Public Utilities' **Red Wagon** Paint Out Program provides free materials and training to volunteers who want to remove unsightly graffiti in their neighborhood.

The program is specifically geared toward graffiti removal and prevention on private property. Supplies provided in your red wagon include: latex paint, paint rollers, roller screen and bucket, gloves, cleanup rags and safety vest.

## STEPS TO TAKE CONTROL OF GRAFFITI

### PREVENTION TIPS

Make property hard to vandalize by:

- Installing flashing motion sensor lights.
- Planting vegetation or making a fence barrier.
- Inspecting your property weekly.
- Moving dumpsters to the ends of the alleys to reduce graffiti. Call dumpster companies and ask them to keep graffiti off dumpsters. (Their phone number is usually on the dumpster.)

- Removing or painting over graffiti immediately is the best way to prevent more graffiti. Prevent your property from becoming known as a good site among vandals.
- Asking merchants and neighbors to remove graffiti from their property.
- Calling the **Hotline** at **(206) 684-7587** to report graffiti on public and private property.

### ORGANIZE A PAINT OUT

Gather your friends and neighbors to paint out graffiti on private property in your community. If assisting a property owner, they will need to sign a waiver. We can provide you with one.

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#### Paint Out: make it a tradition

You can also join a community-based organization that we sponsor, **Seattle Paint Out**. Visit them online at [www.paintout.org](http://www.paintout.org).

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## REMOVING GRAFFITI

1. Obtain permission from property owners before painting over graffiti.
2. Ask property owner for matching color paint, or use neutral colors like gray, white or beige.
3. Clean all surfaces to be painted. Any oil, mildew or blistering old paint should be removed, or your paint won't stick.
4. Protect the ground from paint drips by placing a drop cloth or cardboard on the ground under the surface you are painting.
5. Repainting the entire wall is the best way is to remove graffiti. This leaves no trace of it and draws less attention from vandals.
6. The next to best way is to paint in patches. When it is not possible to paint the entire wall, use a closely matched color blocked over the graffiti in neat, square shapes. The closer the color match, the more effective it is in preventing further vandalism.
7. Clean up drips and spills before moving on to the next site.
8. If your building is a City of Seattle Landmark or located in a Special Review District, you must not take any action to remove or cover graffiti until you contact the City of Seattle Historic Preservation Program at **(206) 684-0228**.
9. For glass marked with acid etching, contact a glass professional.
10. Always think **safety first** when going from one site to another.
11. Always wear safety vest provided and paint in visible areas.



## CLEANING UP AFTER A PAINT OUT

1. Seal all leftover paint in secure containers and label its color.
  2. Leave roller screens in buckets.
  3. Wash out brushes and roller frames only, **not used roller covers!** (Because water is wasted rinsing inexpensive roller covers.)
  4. Scrape excess paint from roller covers back into paint can.
- Roller covers can be stored **unrinsed** for reuse by sealing in a plastic bag.
  - Rollers with unrinsed covers may be stored in the freezer.
  - To dispose of unrinsed roller covers, let air dry until paint is hard, then place in trash.



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

- Never throw paint or paint-contaminated water down a storm drain or onto the ground.
- Always clean brushes and equipment in a sink or drain in your home where it can go through a sewage treatment plant.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND RESOURCES

### Red Wagon Support Line

Give us a call for graffiti removal advice:  
**(206) 684-3096 or (206) 684-7790**

**Report Graffiti**  
**(206) 684-7587**

**Call 911 for graffiti in progress**



For interpretation service please call (206) 684-3000.

Ch 如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼 206-684-3000。

Ko 통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.

Som Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.

Sp Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.

Tag Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.

Viet Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

## RED WAGON PAINT OUT PROGRAM



Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

[www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util)  
PO Box 34018  
Seattle, WA 98124-4018  
(206) 684-7587  
TDD (206) 233-7241

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 City of Seattle

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### GRAFFITI PREVENTION & REMOVAL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD