

Graffiti Control by Surface

| Surface | Management Option | Considerations |
|---|---|--|
| Concrete/ brick/stone - Unpainted | Blasting systems | Best option. Recycled glass blaster is the most aggressive; dry ice more gentle. Baking soda is intermediate, but produces more residue. Waste disposal issues. |
| | Graffiti resistant coating + graffiti remover | OK for a few surfaces - may cause discoloration of surface. Aggressive graffiti remover needed to avoid shadowing. Chemical hazards. May need pressure washing. |
| | Chemical graffiti remover + pressure wash | Good option for some surfaces. Chemical hazards. May leave residue and shadow on concrete blocks and granite. Waste disposal issues. |
| Concrete/ brick/stone - Painted | Painting over | Often the best option. Precise color matching required. |
| | Chemical graffiti remover + pressure wash | Good option for some situations. Chemical hazards. Waste disposal issues. |
| | Graffiti resistant coating and chemical graffiti remover | OK for a few surfaces - may cause discoloration of surface. Aggressive graffiti remover needed to avoid shadowing. Chemical hazards. May need pressure washing. |
| Street Signage (with base film) | Fluoropolymer non-sacrificial films + gentle chemical graffiti remover or adhesive tape | Best option; works for stickers, paint and markers. Adhesive packaging tape can remove light graffiti. Possible warranty issues if base sheeting is a different brand than film. |
| | Gentle chemical graffiti remover | Good performance for light graffiti, but not heavy paint or stickers. Some products may remove screen printing |
| | Graffiti resistant coating + aggressive chemical graffiti remover | OK performance. Many coatings destroyed reflectivity. Chemical hazard. Warranty issues. |
| Other Signage (no base film) | Vinyl non-sacrificial films + aggressive chemical graffiti remover | Best option; works for stickers, paint and markers. |
| | Chemical graffiti remover | Varies depending on sign coating. (Not tested) |
| Wood - Unpainted | Blasting systems | Good option. Use less aggressive systems (dry ice). |

| Surface | Management Option | Considerations |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Wood - Painted | Painting over | Often the best option. Precise color matching required. |
| | Chemical graffiti remover + pressure wash | Good option for some surfaces. Chemical hazards. Waste disposal issues. |
| | Blasting systems | Good option. Use less aggressive systems (dry ice). |
| Metal - Unpainted | Blasting systems | Good option. Aggressive blaster (recycled glass) works best, depending on metal. Waste disposal issues. |
| | Chemical graffiti remover | Good option. Chemical hazards. Waste disposal issues. |
| Metal - Painted | Painting over | Best option. Precise color matching required. |
| | Chemical graffiti remover + pressure wash | Good option. Chemical hazards. Waste disposal issues. |
| Metal - Powder coated | Chemical graffiti remover + pressure wash | Best option. Chemical hazards. Waste disposal issues. (Powder coating makes painting over unattractive) |
| Fiberglass | Chemical graffiti remover | Good option for light graffiti. No commercial products removed stickers. Chemical hazards. |
| Glass | Chemical graffiti remover | Good option. No protection against etching. Chemical hazards. Waste disposal issues. |
| | Sacrificial films | Good option. May protect against etching. Especially useful for plexiglass. Waste issues. |
| | Graffiti resistant coating + graffiti remover | Good option. May protect against etching. Chemical hazards. |
| Rubber escalator railings | Painting over | Good option. Requires down time for paint drying. |
| | Chemical graffiti remover | Good option. May shorten life of railings. Chemical hazards. |

Recommendations based on the report *Safer Alternative Graffiti Management Methods for California (2014)*, Institute for Research and Technical Assistance. Funded by US EPA Region IX, San Francisco Dept. of the Environment, and Bay Area Air Quality Management District. A limited set of least-toxic chemical graffiti removers were tested for this study.