

MITREPLAN PROJECT PLANNER

Combat Graffiti



- An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a perfect result.
- Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.
- Includes a materials checklist.

PLEASE NOTE:

Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is worth your time to read all steps thoroughly first to be sure you understand what is required.

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MIGHTY HELPFUL™ MITRE 10

Smart Paint Disposal

Lets consider our environment from another point of view. Due to poor disposal practices, a large percentage of paint waste from private properties finds its way into the stormwater and drainage systems of our towns and cities. From there it is discharged into local creeks, rivers and ultimately the ocean. It is a commonly held belief that the majority of water pollution comes from industry and sewage treatment works. In fact, it is our everyday activities that cause the most pollution. It is therefore our responsibility to dispose of any excess paint and paint products in the correct manner.

Remember to buy only as much paint, as you will need for the job. Measure the area that you intend to paint and ask your Mitre 10 expert to estimate the quantity required. Keep a note of the tinting mix so that the exact colour can be reproduced in the event that you do run out before the job is finished.

Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street gutter or drain (Fig. 2 and 3 previous page).

Cleaning up after using water based paints.

- Try to wipe/squeeze as much paint as possible from the brushes, trays and rollers back into the paint tin for future use.
- Paint out excess paint onto newspaper, allow it to dry, then dispose of with normal household waste.
- Use one container to clean your brush, and another container for the final rinse.
- Leave the first container overnight so that the solids can settle, then pour the water onto the garden or a grassed area where it can be absorbed into the ground.
- Wipe out the residue solids from the cleaning bucket with newspaper, allow to dry, and dispose of with household waste.

This is an easy and affective way of ensuring that paint pollutants do not get into our stormwater system and harm our waterways.

Cleaning up after using oil based paints.

- As with water-based paints return as much paint as possible from the brushes, rollers and trays to the paint tin for future use.
- Paint out excess paint onto newspaper and dispose of with household waste.
- When cleaning brushes and equipment, use a minimum amount of solvent.
- Rinse the equipment in two separate containers of solvent.
- Allow solids to settle in the solvent, and decant the solvent for future use (Fig. 4 previous page).
- Allow solids to dry before disposal in household waste.

Disposal of Unwanted Paint.

- Leave the lid off your paint tins and allow the excess paint to dry completely. Dispose of dry paint with household rubbish.
- Acrylic paints can be hardened by the addition of a commercial solidifying agent.
- Off the shelf solidifiers are available at most Mitre 10 stores.
- Before you throw paint away, ask yourself whether it could be used elsewhere around the house.
- If you have a large quantity of paint left over then you might consider giving it to your neighbour or a local community group.
- To store left over paint, seal the lid securely, and store the paint upside down to create an airtight seal around the lid.
- Store paint and solvents away from extremes of temperature.
- Always store paint and solvents out of reach of small children.
- As an option you can dispose of excess paint and paint tins through your local household chemical collection program.

Combat graffiti – with a little help from Mitre 10.

Graffiti can be a blight on the urban landscape. It is unsightly and often offensive. Graffitists may not be large in number, but their vandalism can be seen throughout our cities, towns and countryside in ever increasing amounts.

Some state governments and legal authorities have recently announced a comprehensive program to combat the growing problem of graffiti in our environment with a wide range of initiatives.

Graffiti removal was once the domain of the professional remover. It was expensive and cumbersome, often incorporating high-pressure water sprayers, heavy sandblasting equipment and/or toxic chemicals.

Recent product developments however, have resulted in the availability of a wide range of graffiti removal products and anti-graffiti protective coatings that have been developed specifically for the DIY home user.

They are easy to use and target specific types of graffiti on different surfaces, therefore reducing treatment costs, minimising damage to existing paintwork and improving user safety.

Now you can play your part in the war against graffiti. With a little help from your Mitre 10 store, you can keep your property graffiti free.

Step 1: Protective coatings for your walls

Unpainted masonry surfaces in high-risk areas can be protected from graffiti by the application of a specially formulated sealer to the surface. This will provide a hard, non-porous surface which will aid the removal of any subsequent graffiti. Removal is usually accomplished with normal cleaning methods and solvents.

Some products can provide a long lasting invisible barrier which helps make graffiti removal easier. Always check the manufacturers instructions as some coatings may need to be re-applied after a graffiti attack. These are known as sacrificial coatings or sealers.

Other coatings and sealers are permanent (non-sacrificial), and will withstand repeated graffiti removals without damaging the coating. Again, check the manufacturers instructions for best results. Or consult your local Mitre 10 expert for advice.

These coatings can be either solvent based, or water based with a single pack or two pack formula. Mitre 10 can advise you on the product best suited to your needs, together with practical advice on their safe application.

Step 2: Identifying the graffiti medium, and the graffiti surface

In order to provide the best advice, your Mitre10 expert will need to know what type of paint or marker is used on the graffiti, and what the underlying surface is. Aerosol paints are the most common graffiti medium, and also the most difficult to remove. Felt tip markers, crayons and ordinary paint may also be encountered. Different surfaces require different treatments. Establish if your surface is masonry, cement render, iron, and if it has been painted. This will help determine the optimum removal system for your specific graffiti problem. If you are having trouble identifying the underlying surface, consult a local tradesperson or call the Mitre 10 Advice Line for help.

Remember, prompt removal of graffiti is the best option. This will discourage graffitists, as their 'work' will no longer be on display.

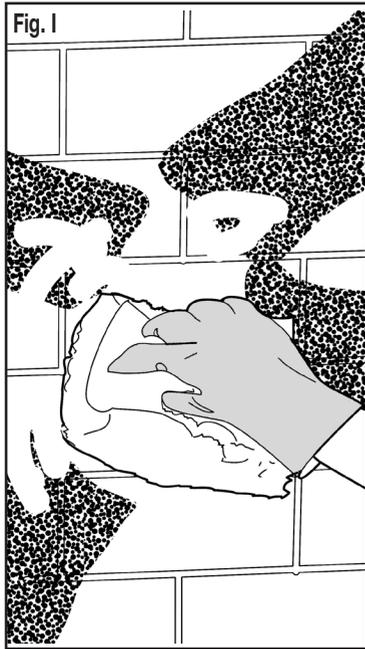
Graffiti is easiest to remove if it is treated promptly before the paint has had time to cure.

So, get the right advice, and strike swiftly to eradicate your graffiti.

Step 3: Treatment is always an option

Often the cheapest and quickest method of dealing with graffiti is to repaint the affected area with a fresh coat of paint. Sealants may be required on some graffiti to prevent bleeding through the finished paintwork.

Remember when repainting, that darker surfaces are less likely to attract further graffiti.



Remember

Graffiti is wilful damage to property and should be reported to the police. If possible provide a photograph of the graffiti to assist police in identifying the offender. Keep a record of clean-up costs to support any insurance or court restitution claims.

Step 4: Removal is possible

There is a wide range of products now available on the market to remove graffiti. Because they rely on a chemical reaction with the paint, they will work best at high temperatures when the treated surface is warm. Winter sun is ideal to warm a surface, but hot summer sun will tend to dry out the solvent. In this case reapply the solvent to keep the surface wet.

Your local Mitre 10 can help you identify which graffiti remover will be appropriate for the job.

Step 5: Graffiti removal products to help you

In the past, harsh paint strippers were used to remove graffiti. Paint manufacturers have designed new products that actually work with the existing paint to remove graffiti and minimise damage to painted surfaces. They are usually non-caustic, biodegradable, water soluble and are very easy to use.

Most biodegradable removers are suitable for non-porous surfaces, especially pre-painted surfaces. Using them is easy:

- Try a test patch first to see if the graffiti is susceptible to being removed.
- Apply in small sections and let stand for the recommended amount of time.
- Wipe or hose off with water. Use a scrubbing brush where necessary.

For porous surfaces such as brick, concrete, cement render, sandstone, etc. a heavy duty remover may be needed. Remember, always check the manufacturers instructions before you apply a graffiti remover. Or ask your local Mitre 10 expert for advice before commencing work. Again, using them is easy:

- Apply several coats of remover, waiting 2-3 minutes between coats.

- Hose off with a pressure cleaner, if needed.

Other products are simply applied either with a brush, spray or aerosol and left to react with the graffiti. They are then wiped off (Fig. 1), and the surface is rinsed with water. For stubborn graffiti, the process may need to be repeated.

Another product that is available to help you is a biodegradable, low toxicity, low odour, long acting gel. This product is simply painted on to the graffiti, wiped off and then rinsed with water.

IMPORTANT:

The purchase of Solvent Based Aerosols is restricted to persons 18 years or older. Persons may be required to produce evidence of age when purchasing Solvent Based Aerosols.

Avoiding graffiti

There are some simple steps that you can take to help prevent graffiti:

- Well-positioned sensor lights can be a deterrent to graffitiists.
- Appropriate planting of vines, bushes or spiky plants such as bougainvillea is a cheap and effective way of avoiding graffiti.
- Dark surfaces tend to deter graffitiists.
- Heavily textured surfaces are difficult to deface with paint or felt pens. Refer to MitrePlan 75 – How to bag and render – for information on how to apply a texture to a wall.
- Use high density, low absorbency materials such as hard-burnt bricks.
- When building fences or walls in high-risk areas, incorporate regular niches or steps to break the surface area and make it less likely to be defaced.
- Apply anti graffiti coatings to high-risk areas.

Fig. 2



Fig. 3



COMBAT GRAFFITI AT A GLANCE

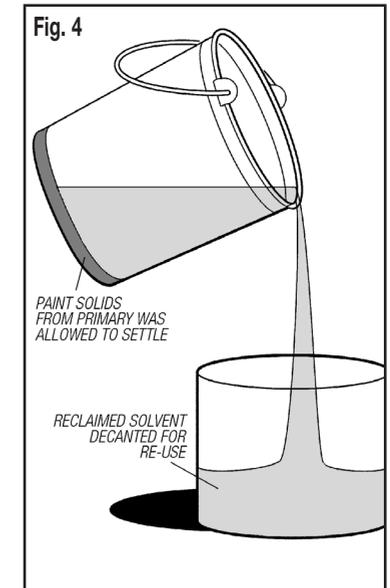
SURFACE	Initial Clean		Protection	Maintenance		
	Biodegradable Cleaner	Heavy Duty Cleaner	Barrier Coating	Hot Water*	Biodegradable Cleaner	Barrier Coating
Non-porous eg. perspex, polycarbonate	■		■	■	■	■
Bare masonry, concrete, brick, sandstone etc		■	■	■		■
Painted surfaces including pre-painted steel	■		■	■	■	■

*Used in conjunction with a pressure cleaner or brush.

Safety considerations

When handling any chemical products, it is important to follow the manufacturers precautions. Always wear protective goggles and gloves during use. Any contact with skin or eyes should be washed off immediately with large amounts of water. Dispose of any unused product in a responsible manner.

KEEP ALL PAINT PRODUCTS AND SOLVENTS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.



Combat Graffiti

MIGHTY HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER

- The purchase of Solvent Based Aerosols is restricted to persons 18 years or older. Persons may be required to produce evidence of age when purchasing Solvent Based Aerosols.
- Early identification of the graffiti medium and surface will help ensure easy removal.
- You can protect high risk areas in many different ways.
- There are a number of graffiti removal products available at most Mitre 10 stores to help you do the job.
- Be safe when handling graffiti removal products. Always wear goggles and protective clothing as per the manufacturers instructions.



IMPORTANT: This project planner has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, this information is provided for use on the understanding that Mitre 10 is not liable for any loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss), for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of using the information contained in this MitrePlan Project Planner. Mitre 10 advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required, and to independently assess any safety precautions that will need to be followed prior to using the information in this MitrePlan Project Planner.

WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.

Your local MITRE 10 Store is: