

## GRAFFITI BULLETIN

**To:** Downtown Member  
**From:** Katie Grubbe, Graffiti Specialist  
**Re:** Graffiti Paint Over – Tips and Products

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Painting over graffiti is the simplest removal method. It is low cost, safe and easy for anyone to do. Ideally the paint should match the existing palette of the building. If the paint cannot be matched to the original, the entire surface should be painted. Patchwork paintjobs leave shadows or “ghosts” of the original graffiti, which encourage vandals to return. If it is not possible to paint the entire surface then the entire length from the ground up to a determined point should be painted, with a straight line all the way across.

Prior to painting ensure the surface is in good condition, has no cracks, leaks, rust or water damage. A properly prepared surface will prevent the peeling and cracking of paint. It should be cleaned of dust, dirt, grease and oil. Smooth surfaces may need to be lightly sanded prior to painting in order for paint to adhere properly.

In some cases graffiti, especially a tag written in permanent marker, can bleed through the freshly painted surface. The proper paint selection can prevent this, however, a pigmented sealer can also counter this unfortunate occurrence while allowing ease in matching the existing paint.

**It is not uncommon for a freshly painted wall to be vandalized again shortly after removal. Rapid removal and persistence is the key to deterring this. Ensure that you keep matching paint on hand in order to repaint.**

If the problem does not diminish you may want to consider an anti-graffiti protective coating. This is initially more expensive than a paint over, however, it allows for easy removal following graffiti reoccurrence. Feel free to contact me if this may be an option you wish to pursue.

The products used by Downtown Kingston! :

TSP: Surface cleanser. This and similar products can be purchased at most businesses where paint is sold.

Bulls-Eye 123: Universal water based primer-sealer/stain killer, all surface bond coat. This and similar products can be purchased at most businesses where paint is sold.