

What is graffiti

Graffiti is the unauthorized inscription, word, figure, mark or design marked, etched, scratched, drawn or painted upon the surface of a building, structure, tree, shrub, fence, walkway, light standard, sidewalk or any other facility.

All Graffiti scrawled on private or public property, without the permission of the owner, is a form of VANDALISM and, as such, is a CRIMINAL ACT. Graffiti is punishable by JAIL, FINES, or COMMUNITY SERVICE. Did you know that PARENTS are RESPONSIBLE for VANDALISM committed by their minor children, and may have to PAY a fine or cleanup graffiti for up to a YEAR with their children?

Yes, that is correct. According to the law, parents are liable if their minor children commit an act of vandalism.

According to the City of Holtville's Municipal Code Chapter 9.100.120 it is a violation for property owners to allow a graffiti nuisance to remain on their property for a period of 15 days after the City has provided them with a notice of violation. The City's municipal code can be found on our web site Holtville.ca.gov under the municipal code page chapter 9.100 Graffiti Abatement.

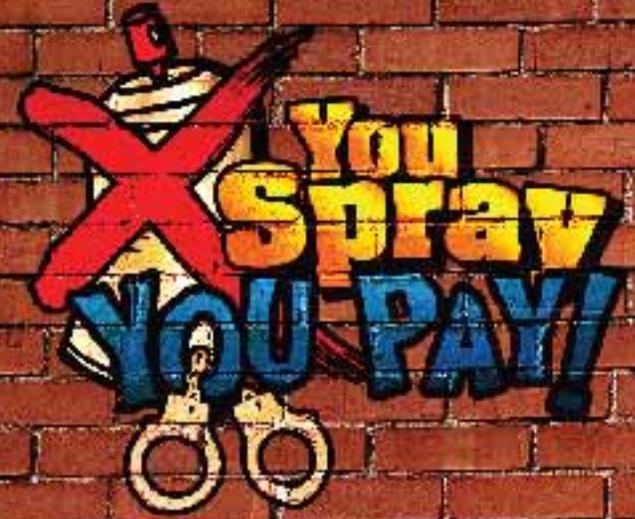
Graffiti is a concern in Holtville

There is a graffiti problem in Holtville as in other cities nation wide. As a result of graffiti in our neighborhoods, there is often a loss of pride and people begin to feel threatened by the vandals and possible gang members. Graffiti can lower the property value and negatively affect local business. No one wants to shop or live in an area in which they do not feel safe.

The continued illegal activities of tagging graffiti is forcing the City to spend precious dollars to cover and abate it.

With a dedicated effort and practical strategy, Holtville can reduce or even eliminate graffiti from their neighborhoods. Together, as a community, we can make a difference and help keep Holtville safe, clean and beautiful.

Graffiti Abatement Program
City of Holtville
121 W 5th Street
Holtville, CA 92250
(760) 356-2221



**The City of Holtville's
Graffiti Abatement Program**

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How can you help?

1. Report graffiti vandals immediately

If you see any suspicious activity call 9-1-1 and report graffiti and vandalism immediately. A law enforcement official will be dispatched to the scene. Citizens often see criminal acts take place and choose not to report it. They feel someone else will call or they don't want to become involved. If you get involved, it increases the chances of the suspect being caught and successfully prosecuted.

2. Report graffiti immediately

Report "fresh" or graffiti in progress anytime by calling (760) 356-2221. City staff will respond during business hours and all voice messages will be answered by the next business day. This phone line is a direct number to the Police Department

3. Remove graffiti immediately from your property

Graffiti promotes other graffiti and increases the chances of more serious crime.

As a property owner you are held accountable for the abatement of any nuisance on your property. Graffiti is considered a nuisance according to City Municipal Code.

4. Fill out the consent form

Complete the consent to remove graffiti form and return it to City Hall. This will allow the City to neatly and effectively remove or paint over graffiti on your property. You can also log onto www.holtville.ca.gov.

Once the City has a signed consent we will contact you at the phone number provided on the consent form before we remove the graffiti. You will be given the opportunity to remove it yourself, to provide the city with preferred paint or allow the city to remove the graffiti matching colors to the best of our ability.

Aggressive enforcement

Violators will be arrested and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Rapid Removal: City crews will remove offensive writing and graffiti from public property within 24 hours. City staff will make every effort to contact property owners and secure the consent to remove graffiti form and abate graffiti on private property as quickly as possible. Our goal is to abate all graffiti within 24 hours of reporting or the signed consent form being returned to City Hall

Maximum prosecution under the law for offenders: The City adopted Ordinance 445, City Municipal Code Division XII Graffiti Chapter 9.100 Graffiti Abatement, which states that the City will prosecute to the maximum feasible extent under the Penal Code of the State of California, which supports mandatory jail time and community service. In addition, the violation of the Ordinance 445 is considered an infraction and punishable by a fine between \$100 to \$500. The City of Holtville is urging that mandatory restitution be paid by the offender!

Parents or legal guardians held financially responsible: Parents or legal guardians of a minor who is found guilty of applying graffiti shall be severally liable for payment of civil damages resulting from the misconduct of the minor in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each such offense.

Driving Privilege Suspension: Current law permits up to one year's suspension of the driving privilege for convicted taggers. Offenders under 16 can have their licensing eligibility extended one year—to age 17!

Complete the attached consent form and return it with your water bill to:

**City Hall
121 W. 5th Street.**

Give us your permission so we can remove graffiti off your property.

You can also log onto
www.holtville.ca.gov

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