

# YPSILANTI HISTORIC DISTRICT FACT SHEET

## Graffiti Abatement

This is one is a series of Fact Sheets provided by the Historic District Commission to assist property owners and building contractors in planning appropriate treatment of structures within the Historic District.

The Historic District Commission requires that a building be maintained in its original form whenever possible. The character and historic value of a building both change whenever alterations are made and every effort shall be made to maintain the historical integrity of a building.

Your application for a Historic District Work Permit, submitted to the Building Department, will be forwarded to the Historic District Commission for review and must be approved by the Commission before work can begin.

Historic District Work Permit applications may be obtained from the Building Department in the basement of City Hall, in the Planning and Development Department on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, or on the City website, [www.cityofypsilanti.com](http://www.cityofypsilanti.com).

Historic buildings need to be cleaned using the gentlest means possible in order to maintain the integrity of the exterior surface of the building.

Graffiti removal should first be attempted with the gentlest means, such as soap and water. Power washing and sandblasting are not allowed under any circumstances. Water pressure, if used, should be no stronger than that of a garden hose. If a scrub brush is needed, the bristles should be a non-metallic material.

Cleaning should be attempted as soon as possible once the graffiti has been discovered, as fresh paint is often easier to remove.

### **FRESHLY PAINTED GRAFFITI:**

The following products may be used to remove graffiti that is freshly painted:

- Acetone
- LA's Totally Awesome Cleaner

It is recommended that these products be tested in an inconspicuous 2x2 inch area.

### **STONE OR MASONRY:**

Graffiti on unpainted masonry surfaces may not be painted over.

Stone or masonry should be damp with water before cleaning is attempted.

Removing graffiti from masonry must be done using products designed to have no effect on the surface of the brick. Test the product in a small inconspicuous area of the building before use on a larger area to ensure compatibility with the type of material being cleaned. The following products may be used for graffiti removal from unpainted stone or masonry surfaces:

- Peel-Away 6 or Peel Away 7
- Mostenbocker's Lift Off #4 Graffiti Spray Paint Remover
- Klean-strip Graffiti Remover
- Citristrip (the aerosol form is recommended)
- Goof Off Graffiti Remover

All products are available locally, and most are also effective on surfaces other than stone and masonry, such as wood and metal. When it is possible, seek out a professional, as the use of some graffiti removers can be complicated to use.

For more specific masonry cleaning guidelines, please refer to the HDC Masonry Cleaning Fact Sheet.

### **PAINTED SURFACES:**

Graffiti applied to a painted surface may be painted over. The color of the paint that is used to cover the graffiti must match exactly the color of the existing paint.

Before painting over, it is recommended that a stain killer, such as KILZ be applied to prevent bleeding of the graffiti through the paint.

### **WOOD:**

If wood is not weathered, try using Mineral Spirits. Many of the products listed under "Stone or Masonry" are also effective on wood.

### **FACTORY FINISHED MATERIALS (enamel, aluminum, etc.):**

Goof-Off Graffiti Remover is effective on these surfaces. Also, check the labels of the products listed above for use on factory finished surfaces.

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Other information on removing graffiti from Historic Structures can be found at the National Parks Service Website: [www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief38.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief38.htm)

For further information: e-mail [hdc@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:hdc@cityofypsilanti.com) or call the Planning & Development Department at 734-483-9646

Information for this fact sheet has been obtained from the June 26, 2008 product testing performed by the Planning and Development Department and subsequent August 6, 2008 memo titled "Graffiti Abatement Experimentation".