



CITY OF

Ypsilanti

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Historic District Fact Sheet

Graffiti

This Fact Sheet is not a substitute for the ordinance, but addresses common questions about City ordinances. For further information, please contact the Historic District Assistant.

All permit applications are available from the Building Department and at cityofypsilanti.com/permits.

Completed applications may be dropped off at the Building Department.

City Hall

One South Huron
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Building

3rd Floor, City Hall
Phone: (734) 482-1025
cityofypsilanti.com/157

Planning

3rd Floor, City Hall
Phone: (734) 483-9646
cityofypsilanti.com/planning

Historic District

3rd Floor, City Hall
Phone: (734) 483-9646
cityofypsilanti.com/hd

All permits, fees, and factsheets can be found at cityofypsilanti.com/permits.

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

Always test products in an inconspicuous 2x2 inch area before using!

Freshly Painted Graffiti (all surfaces)

- Soap and water
- Acetone
- LA's Totally Awesome Cleaner

Painted Surfaces

Graffiti applied to a painted surface may be painted over. Before painting over, consider applying a stain blocker, such as KILZ, to prevent the graffiti bleeding through the paint. The final color of the paint used to cover the graffiti must exactly match the existing paint.

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. The following 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 some graffiti removers can be complicated.

- 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

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

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.