

Get the FAQs

- **What is graffiti?**

Words, colors, shapes drawn or scratched on buildings and other surfaces **done without permission.**

The term graffiti comes from the Greek word *graphein*, which means “to write”.

- **Is it legal?**

It is not legal and is considered by the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program as vandalism.

- **How is Lahaina “hurt” by graffiti?**

Grffiti sends the signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency to Lahaina.

Grffiti not only decreases our community’s feeling of safety; property value, business growth and tourism also suffer a decrease.

- **How do we prevent graffiti?**

One of the best and most effective ways to prevent graffiti is to remove it promptly. Use same color paint & avoid “patchwork effect”. Studies have shown that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.

- **Who do I report graffiti to and what’s the process?**

Should you see graffiti or observe anyone applying graffiti on buildings or other surfaces, take a photo if possible, write down the location & any other information that would be helpful, email photo to info@lahainarestoration.org then report it to one of the appropriate authorities listed below:

Maui Police Department
(808) 244-6400

Lahaina Restoration Foundation
For reports within Lahaina’s Historic District
(Canoes – Puamana, makai of Hwy 30)
(808) 661-3262

info@lahainarestoration.org

Maui Crime Stoppers
MCS offers cash rewards up to \$1000 for information leading to arrest and indictment of offenders.
(808) 242-6966



FIX UP • CLEAN UP • EDUCATE • CELEBRATE!

Lahaina Restoration Foundation

Phone: (808) 661-3262

Fax: (808) 661-9309

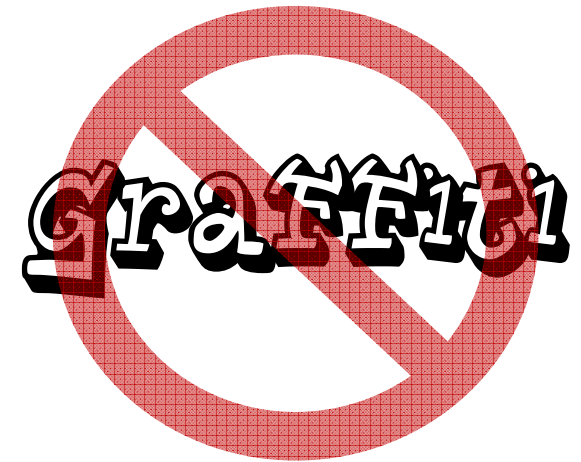
info@lahainarestoration.org

www.lahainarestoration.org

November 2008

Lahaina

A Graffiti Free Zone



**GRAFFITI IS
NOT ART!**

Before You Start

Keep in mind, the sooner you remove graffiti the easier it is to clean off, however it is important that you contact the police or appropriate authorities (see GET THE FAQ'S for more info) before painting over it so that all graffiti incidents go on record.

Useful Tips

Be sure to try soap, water, and a soft brush first. If you find that chemicals are needed, be sure to wear protective rubber gloves. **Chemicals should only be used according to manufacturer's instructions and with extreme caution.**



You may also want to remember to use a paint tarp under your working area. You don't want to create a new problem while solving another.

To prevent graffiti from bleeding through when doing a paint-over, use white shellac sealer or silver spray paint.

Application of paint or chemicals to a surface should be done from edge to edge minimizing the visual effect of changes to the surface area that new paint or chemicals may cause.

When working on vertical surfaces, use paste type paint remover. Liquid removers will run.



Brushes and steel wool increase effectiveness of cleaning agents; however their use is not recommended on rough and porous surfaces as they may drive the graffiti material deeper into the surface area.

Before you begin, identify the surface being cleaned and the graffiti materials used. The most commonly used agents in applying graffiti are grease pencils, felt tipped pens, and spray paints. Others include water based paint, ballpoint pen, lipstick and crayon. You will find smooth, hard surfaces the easiest to clean; rough porous surfaces the most difficult.

Let's Clean-Up Lahaina



Suggestions for graffiti removal are listed from the mildest to the harshest treatment in terms of surface impact and toxicity. If the first suggestion does not work, move on to the next.

Remember that chemicals should only be used according to manufacturer's instructions and with extreme caution.

Unless otherwise indicated, the following procedures can be used for all types of graffiti.

Most materials suggested for graffiti removal can be purchased from local paint stores.

PAINTED SURFACES

CONCRETE

- Clean with denatured alcohol
- Apply shellac sealer and repaint

METAL

- Clean with paint thinner
- Clean with denatured alcohol
- Use lacquer thinner (test/may remove paint)
- Paint over if thinners don't work

WOOD

- STAINED WOOD
- Use paint remover/rub with sandpaper & restain
- PAINTED WOOD
- Clean with denatured alcohol & apply white shellac sealer and repaint

UNPAINTED SURFACES

ASPHALT

- FELT TIP OR SPRAY PAINT
- Use lacquer thinner and wire brush
- GREASE PENCIL
- Spread black top sealer

CEMENT & STUCCO

- Apply sealer and cover with well matched paint or apply slurry (mixture of cement and water of paint consistency)
- Try sandblasting (professionally done)

EXPOSED AGREGATE CONCRETE & BRICK

- Use pressure washer
- Roll or spray on water soluble paint or varnish remover and remove with pressure washer
- Try sandblasting (professionally done)

GLASS

- FELT TIP OR SPRAY PAINT
- Apply lacquer thinner and use scraper
- GREASE PENCIL
- Use denatured alcohol and loosen with a window scraper

MARBLE

- Use lacquer thinner then wash off residue with soap & water
- Use paint remover

PLEXIGLASS

- Apply "Write Away Graffiti Remover" by ZEP and wipe with a clean rag

PLASTIC

- Use automobile pre-wash cleaner
- Consult manufacturer

VINYL SIDING

- Clean with denatured alcohol
- Clean with lacquer thinner

WOOD

- UNPAINTED
- Use a wire brush or sandpaper