

CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
**THE
WORKS**

www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks



Fighting Graffiti



*Resources for Cambridge residents
and businesses, presented by
the Department of Public Works
and Cambridge Police...*



printed on recycled paper

CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
**THE
WORKS**

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617.349.4800 / TTY 617.349.4805
www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks



Graffiti is a crime that has long-lasting impacts on the community. Beyond the ugly markings themselves, graffiti can quickly attract other graffiti vandals (“taggers”), accelerating crime in an area. A “tag” is *any* mark of graffiti, from scratch marks to markers and paint.

The time and money involved with prevention and cleanup are significant for businesses, homeowners, and institutional property owners.

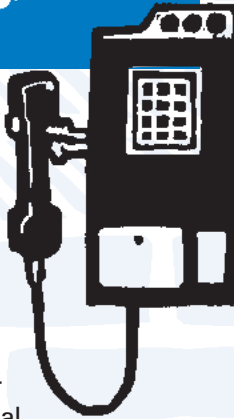
With these facts in mind, the City of Cambridge has established a variety of resources to help combat graffiti. The success of this program depends on the cooperation between Public Works and the Police Department, but also between the city and its residents and property owners. Working together, we can have better, lasting results.

How You Can Help

- Use the graffiti hotline (*see next page*)
- Organize community clean-up days.
- Take a photo of graffiti you find on your property, then quickly remove it. One tag can open the door to others. Call the hotline to receive information on how to remove graffiti from your property and to report graffiti you’ve found.
- Teach your children about the costs and impacts graffiti has on property and the community.

The Laws

The city employs a variety of state and local laws that address graffiti vandals. Fines and possible suspension of drivers’ licenses are applied to offenders. Laws also prohibit the sale of aerosol spray paint cans or non-water soluble markers to anyone under the age of 18. For more details on applicable laws, call the graffiti hotline at **617.349.6955**



The Graffiti Hotline: 617.349.6955

The Hotline is a central clearinghouse for graffiti identification and removal. Use the hotline to:

- Report locations where graffiti has been applied.
- Identify “taggers.” All information you may provide to the hotline about taggers is kept confidential.
- Get advice on organizing community clean-up days or about removing graffiti from your property.

Other graffiti phone numbers:

Call 911 only if you witness graffiti tagging in process. Otherwise, call the graffiti hotline.

You can also call other agencies directly to report graffiti on their properties:

■ City of Cambridge Departments:

Electrical Department <i>(pay phones, fire boxes)</i>	617.349.4925
Housing Authority Property Public Works <i>(city buildings and parks)</i>	617.864.3020 617.349.4846
School Department Property	617.349.6854
Traffic Department <i>(traffic signs, meters, signals)</i>	617.349.4700
Water Department <i>(fire hydrants, Fresh Pond area)</i>	617.349.4762

■ Other Agencies:

Harvard University Property (police)	617.495.1212
MBTA Complaint Line	617.222.5215
MDC Bridges, Pools, Facilities	617.727.5114 x530
MIT Property (police)	617.253.1212
Middlesex County Courthouse, Registry and other Facilities	617.494.4235
N-Star Electric <i>(electric poles, transformers)</i>	800.592.2000
U.S. Postal Service <i>(mailboxes)</i>	617.575.8724