



GRAFFITI REMOVAL POLICY



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

Adopted by	Napier City Council on 05 March 2019
Relevant Legislation	Local Government Act 2002
NCC Documents Referenced	Safer Napier Strategy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to detail the Napier City Council's strategy to combat graffiti and to outline how the Council deals with graffiti in public spaces.

All graffiti in the city should be notified to Napier City Council by contacting:

- **Phone:** 06-835 7579
- **Website:** www.napier.govt.nz/contact-us/fault-repair/
- **In person:** Dunvegan House, 215 Hastings Street, Napier

Policy

1. Strategies to combat graffiti

Public toilets

Public Toilets have always been a prime target of graffiti artists. All new toilets are now built with finishes that resist graffiti paints. They can be cleaned with solvents that easily remove the graffiti but leave the underlying surface undamaged. Older toilets are being painted with those paints when they become due for maintenance. Greater use is also being made of tiles. This work is paid for out of the toilets maintenance budget.

Large blank walls

These are often the target of graffiti artists. Many of the walls in public places in Napier have had murals painted on them and that strategy has been successful in stopping graffiti as it appears that taggers respect other artwork.

Prosecution of offenders

Graffiti is in general done by very few offenders. Photographs are taken of the graffiti and passed on to the Police. Where the graffiti can be linked to particular offenders it is put on their Police files. When enough evidence is collected, the offenders will be taken to court by the Police.

2. Categories of areas affected by graffiti

Areas that are affected by graffiti can be sorted into four broad categories:

- Council Owned Assets - including all NCC buildings and other assets such as roads, seats, bus shelters, structures on reserve land, etc.
- Private walls and fences on the road boundary.
- Privately owned fences fronting onto alleyways.
- Private buildings other than those on a road boundary frontage.

Council owned assets

- Once notification of graffiti is received, a response time of not more than 2 days is targeted.
- Offensive graffiti is dealt with as above except that the target time was not more than 4 hours from reporting to removal.

- All tags are date photographed before removal in order to assist possible prosecution and cost recovery.
- The graffiti is to be removed and/or painted over. A best colour match is made to the existing paint and only the affected area is painted.

Private walls and fences on the road boundary

At Council's discretion:

- If notification of graffiti is received, the owner of the property may be contacted, and permission sought for the Napier City Council remove the graffiti. The owner or a representative must sign a consent form before work is commenced.
- Target times for the graffiti is two days (as per Council owned Assets above) except that this is taken from the time of receiving written approval from the owner.
- If permission is not given, the graffiti will not be removed.
- **Note:** The Council undertakes to paint out the graffiti and paint the affected area with the best colour match. It does not accept that the whole fence, wall, or building should be repainted.

Private fences on Napier City Council alleyways

- Graffiti will not be removed in these cases.
- Where specific complaints are received about offensive words, they will be painted out.

Private buildings – other than those on a road boundary

- Owners will be offered advice only by Council staff.

Policy Review

The review timeframe of this policy will be no longer than every three years.



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