

Appendix 25 – Graffiti Removal Protocols

Graffiti Removal

- 1) Identify the target surface type. Is it porous or smooth? Painted, not painted? A high retro-reflective tape sign or silk screening (paint on metal)? Guard rails or painted trash can?
 - Sand is inexpensive compared to chemical graffiti removal products.
 - Sand removal is the preferred method in most circumstances where damage to surface is not a factor.
- 2) Select removal product: Sand (wet sandblasting through a pressure washer) or Chemical graffiti removal products (such as Graff Away or Elephant Snot).
 - Porous surfaces such as rock, concrete, and block: utilize a sand blaster (water delivered).
 - Smooth unpainted surfaces or surfaces that can be sacrificed such as guard rails, anodized trail signs, and bark: utilize a sand blaster (water delivered).
 - Painted surfaces such as hand rails, signs, and trash cans; utilize chemical graffiti removal product.
 - Silk screening signs will be destroyed by Graff Away chemical graffiti remover.
- 3) Personal Protective Equipment required: goggles, face shield, gloves/rubber gloves, long sleeves, and ear protection. Should respirators be used in chemical graffiti removal, ensure proper training certs and fit-test requirements are maintained.
- 4) Environmentally sensitive areas require special consideration and graffiti removal in these circumstances should be discussed with the district biologist for guidance.

Wet Sandblasting:

- 5) Never point sandblaster nozzle toward anyone.
- 6) Attach sand blaster nozzle to quick disconnect on pressure washer wand.
- 7) Pour medium grain sand into a five gallon bucket.

- 8) Insert the drafting probe into a covered bucket of medium grain sand. Sand must remain dry to draft properly. Have a second person assist with sand drafting and site/situational awareness to ensure public safety.
- 9) Turn on pressure washer and remove graffiti. Point nozzle downward throughout cleaning to prevent water from entering sand supply. Ensure sand supply line remains on top of the wand to prevent water from entering and creating mud, clogging the line. When you first begin wet sandblasting, hold the wand approximately 24" away from the target surface and begin removing graffiti. Move closer as needed. Be sure to feather out the graffiti outline so as not to leave a reverse image on the target surface.
- 10) Turn off the pressure washer.
- 11) Discharge line pressure in a safe direction.
- 12) Remove the sand blasting attachment.
- 13) Clean sand from the treated area (sweep or pressure wash).

Chemical Graffiti Removal Product

- 14) Personal Protective Equipment must be worn including: rubber gloves, goggles, face shield, and long sleeves.
- 15) Apply graffiti product to a cloth or wipe and remove graffiti. If graffiti is well established or difficult to remove, and you are in a well ventilated area, product can be applied directly to graffiti. Never apply an aerosol chemical graffiti remover inside a closed area.
- 16) Smooth surface removal where finish or surface damage is not a concern (such as guard rails): apply graffiti removal product directly to the graffiti.
- 17) Following manufacturers' recommendations, allow graffiti to break down graffiti, then remove by wiping or with a pressure washer. If using a pressure washer, be aware of wind direction to prevent blowback of product.