

Who vandalizes and why?

Don't be fooled....

There is no one type of person who graffiti or damages property; they could be the smartest kid in school or the kid that's always in trouble.

- Although most offenders have typically been identified as male, there are a growing number of offenders who are female.
- Tagging is not restricted by class.
- Offenders are of all races.
- Most vandals are young people.
- Offenders usually operate in groups.



- Graffiti may be one of the first signs of gangs in your neighborhood. Taggers can act as messengers for gangs, marking territory to let rival gangs know a particular area belongs to them.
- Not all taggers are part of a gang; some just write their names or symbols to gain personal recognition.
- Tagging can be fueled by boredom, anger, revenge, defiance, peer pressure, ideology, or even creative expression.



Contact Us

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

Pima County Sheriff's Department
Community Resources Unit
(520) 351-4615

or



Also visit our website for...

- Online crime reporting
- Local crime mapping
- Crime prevention tips
- and more....

Together we can make a difference.



Pima County Board of Supervisors: Ramon Valadez, Chair District 2; Ann Day, District 1;

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Pima County
Sheriff's Department

*Keeping the Peace and Serving the
Community Since 1865*

GRAFFITI & VANDALISM

ARE VANDALS IN CONTROL OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



Clarence W. Dupnik, Sheriff

1750 E. Benson Highway
Tucson, Arizona 85714

www.pimasheriff.org



What is Vandalism?

It's the willful or malicious destruction of public or private property- a crime with serious consequences (criminal record, fines, jail). It costs citizens money and makes communities look unsafe.

You may have vandalism or graffiti problems if you see the following:

- Missing, damaged, or defaced traffic signs
- Graffiti covered walls
- Broken street lights
- Damage to public facilities
- Damaged mailboxes



Why is it a problem?

Graffiti and vandalism in neighborhoods give the impression that residents don't care about the area, making them prime targets for crime.



Report vandalism to the police, take pictures of the damage, remove the graffiti, and fix vandalized items as soon as possible. It keeps the community looking nice and reduces the likelihood of repetitive crimes.

Take a stand! Don't let this happen in your neighborhood.

The Cost of Graffiti & Vandalism

Businesses often have to pass the cost of cleaning, repairing, and replacing due to vandalism to customers as higher prices. Some businesses are even forced to close or move due to graffiti or vandalism.



Schools Districts spend money fixing damaged equipment on playgrounds or repainting walls. Money could be better used for sports, computers, and supplies for students.



Local governments must fix broken street lights or signs, replace missing or damaged property and clean graffiti in public places. Taxpayers ultimately pay for damage to public areas that require cleaning or repair.



How to spot a tagger

- Dyed or marker stained hands, fingernails, clothes, or shoes.
- Bulky jackets, clothing and backpacks to conceal paint cans.
- Bloodshot eyes from being out at night tagging and being exposed to toxic fumes.
- Tagger nicknames or graffiti on ball caps, visors, notebooks and other possessions.



What can you do?

- **Stay Alert:** Report suspicious activities and crime to law enforcement. Stop vandalism before it occurs. If you see vandalism as it is happening, do not approach or attempt to apprehend the vandal; get a good description of the vandal and their vehicle and call 9-1-1.
- **Beautify:** Work with community organizations to plant trees, repair damaged equipment, and clean up parks.
- **Clean Up:** Paint over graffiti with matching paint, don't leave a canvas for more graffiti. Keep a supply of matching paint readily available.
- **Community Awareness:** Get children to write about vandalism and graffiti and how it affects their community. Start a clean up crew at your school.



Report it!

- Report vandalism to the Pima County Sheriff's Department:
 - Go online! Report past vandalism and submit pictures at www.pimasheriff.org.
 - in progress: 9-1-1
 - not in progress: 351-4900
- You can also call 88-CRIME and remain anonymous.
- Report graffiti in unincorporated Pima County: 792-TAAG (8224).