

# Say NO to graffiti and YES to community!



## Enthusiasm about Rockville's future is growing. NOW is the time for you to help to improve downtown!

According to the Vernon Police Department, graffiti vandalism in Rockville is NOT gang-related. It's done by "taggers" who tend to be juveniles seeking recognition from their peers. As a community, we must care, watch and act! Here are some wise tips:

### 1. What can you do to prevent "graffiti pollution?"

- **Don't participate in it!** Respect public and private property. Graffiti is wrong and against the law.
- If you're a parent or guardian, **make sure your child is not a graffiti vandal.** Teach good morals.
- Don't let your building look trashed! **Immediately remove graffiti** that appears on your property.
- Make sure that your building exterior is **well-lighted throughout the night.** Vandals operate under the cover of darkness.
- **Assist your neighbors** if they need your help in addressing graffiti issues on their property, and ask them to watch your property.
- **Call your local utilities** (electric, cable, gas, phone company) if you see graffiti on their equipment/boxes, and request removal.
- **Proactively work with the Vernon Police Department** if you observe graffiti activity or know someone who is a graffiti vandal.

### 2. What can you do if you're a victim of graffiti?

- **DO NOT attempt to apprehend the suspect. DO get a good description** of the suspect(s) and vehicle(s) involved, and the location.
- **Call 860-872-9126.** If the suspects are seen, known, or if there is a witness, request an on-site visit and report. Even if you have no information pertinent to the crime, you still should report the graffiti so police are aware of it.

### 3. How can you remove graffiti?

- Store and apply **matching paint** so the graffiti disappears as much as possible.
- Use M.E.K. (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) on glass or previously-painted metal surfaces.
- Wearing rubber gloves, use Graffiti Remover on glass, unpainted metal surfaces, brick or block walls (also scrub w/soap & water)
- If needed, **call the Vernon Public Works Department at 860-870-3500** for advice on the best ways to remove graffiti.

### 4. How can you spot a tagger?

- **Paint or marker pen dye stains** on hands, under the fingernails, or on clothes.
- **Bulky/baggy clothes** (military jacket, pull-over or zip-up with a hood, or backpack) to hide spray cans/markers.
- **Bloodshot eyes** from being out all night tagging and exposure to dangerous toxic fumes from markers/paint.
- **Tag names** may be written on the underside of the sports cap bill, visor, on notebooks and other possessions.
- **Spray paint on sneakers or shoes.**



"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." --Edmund Burke  
Thanks to the Vernon Police Department for their help in compiling these tips and for their continuous efforts to make Rockville a safer and better place to live, work and visit.



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a brighter future.  
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