

**NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
GRAFFITI AWARENESS FOR PARENTS**

**raffiti**
is a crime!
Rewards
up to \$500

For the arrest and conviction
of anyone who commits
Graffiti Vandalism

Call 911


To report crimes in progress

Call 311

To report past crimes and
to learn more about the NYPD
Graffiti Reward Program



**IS YOUR CHILD A
GRAFFITI VANDAL?**

**raffiti**
is a crime!
**WHAT EVERY PARENT
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
IDENTIFYING A
GRAFFITI VANDAL**



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Raymond W. Kelly, Police Commissioner

GRAFFITI IS A CRIME THAT IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE AND/OR PRISON

GRAFFITI IS MARKING PRIVATE, PUBLIC, OR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WITH A "TAG."

- Graffiti vandals use spray paint, markers, acid, etc. to create a "tag."
- A "tag" is usually unique to each vandal. Examples include a vandal's initials, a nickname, or a favorite word. By having the "tag" visible to others the vandal receives notoriety within the graffiti subculture.
- Graffiti vandals can be as young as 10 years old.
- A well behaved child may still be a graffiti vandal. They come from any income class. They can be straight "A" students, athletes, or musicians.

PARENTS MAY HAVE A GRAFFITI VANDAL IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT

WHAT A PARENT SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR:

NICKNAMES

- Remain alert for your child or his/her friends calling him/her by an unusual nickname.
- Know your child's friends and see if they fit the criteria listed below as well.

CLOTHING WITH "TAGS" ON THEM

- Outer garments (e.g. hooded sweatshirts, coats, and jackets, sneakers and shoes, pants, shirts, and hats)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES WITH "TAGS" ON THEM

- Knapsacks, school bags, school books, composition books, etc. (books are used as a type of "tag" autograph book)

RESIDUE OF PAINT OR MARKERS

- Drips, drops, or overspray of paint on clothing
- Hands stained by paint or marker ink

GRAFFITI PARAPHERNALIA IN YOUR CHILD'S BEDROOM

- "Tags" on the walls, doors, etc. of the child's room
- Video tapes, DVD's, and video games that are graffiti related
- Inspect video camera tapes and photographs taken by your child. Many graffiti vandals memorialize their work on film.

INSPECT CELLPHONES WITH CAMERAS

- Look for photographs and friends listed by a "tag" name

EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF INDELIBLE MARKERS & PAINTS

- Inspect your child's room for graffiti materials: spray paints, broad tip markers, clothing covered in paint and latex gloves
- Possession of liquid shoe polish or liquid Bingo markers: these liquids are mixed with acid etching cream to permanently mark subway train glass and windows. Once the window is "tagged" the acid melts (or etches) into the glass and the "tag" is permanent.
- Possession of abrasive substances for "scratchiti": rocks, stones, sandpaper, emory boards, grinding tools, knives and screwdrivers are used to scratch the "tag" into a window or hard surface.

INTERNET SECURITY

- There are many pro-graffiti websites that encourage people to commit, photograph, and display their graffiti online.

REMAIN AWARE OF ANY PACKAGE DELIVERIES ADDRESSED TO YOUR CHILD

- Look for companies that sell office supplies, art supplies, paints, broad tip markers and acid etch cream.

PURCHASING ABRASIVE MATERIALS FOR "SCRATCHITI"

- Children can use a prepaid credit or debit card to obtain abrasive materials.
- Inspect garages, basements, and storage areas for missing materials that can be used for graffiti.

Ask school officials to advise you of any "tagging" your child may be involved in while attending school