

DEFACING CITY PROPERTY

It's Against the Law



What is a defacement?

Defacement is when a person paints, prints, writes or attaches, in any manner, an advertisement or printed material to the sidewalk, curb or roadway.

Why am I receiving this notice?

The NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) received a defacement complaint for your property address and found the complaint to be credible. Sidewalks, curbs and roadways are city-owned, however, property owners are responsible to maintain sidewalks.

When did defacement laws become effective?

Current defacement laws became effective on January 27, 1994.

Why didn't my neighbor receive a notice?

If you think your neighbor's property has been defaced, please contact 311.

If a painted curb is defacement, how can I resolve the problem of people parking in my driveway?

Although you may have a legal driveway, the sidewalk, curb and roadway adjacent to your property are city-owned and property owners are not allowed to deface city property by painting the curb to deter parking. You can contact your local Police Precinct so that the parked vehicle can be ticketed and/or towed.

Can I get a permit for painting my driveway?

No, DOT does not issue permits for painting driveways because it is illegal.

What actions do I need to take after receiving this notice?

You have thirty (30) days to correct the violating condition.

ADDITIONAL INFO:

How can I correct the defacement?

Defacements can be corrected by power washing or repainting with the appropriate color paint (see below for full instructions).

- Sidewalks and Curbs should be repainted with battleship grey concrete base paint.
- Roadways should be repainted with black concrete base paint.

What happens after 30 days if the defacement is not corrected?

DOT will automatically re-inspect the condition after thirty (30) days. If the violating condition still exists, a summons will be issued for a civil penalty of \$250.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

Please contact NYC 311 to report a defacement via the [Curb or Drive Complaint form](#) or by calling 311.

Examples of Defacing City Property

