



Tackling graffiti in Thurrock

Educate and Engage

Thurrock Council aims to reduce graffiti through the TAG (Thurrock Against Graffiti) campaign.

The council works closely with primary and secondary schools, offering a range of free educational activities. Its work with schools centres on interacting and engaging with students to get them to think for themselves about the social and economic costs of graffiti.

The council takes a preventative and proactive approach working with our partners and stakeholders to deter young people from committing graffiti vandalism in the first place.

It also provides practical support to community clean-up projects as the council is keen to work with residents to keep Thurrock clean and green.

If you would like more information please call **01375 652652**.

Eradicate

Thurrock Council offers a free graffiti removal service to private residents. It also offers an anti-graffiti coating service, please note a charge will be made for this service. Removal from private residential property will only take place upon the signed completion of a Graffiti Removal Agreement Form (see attached).

Thurrock Council aims to remove racist/sexist/offensive graffiti within 24 hours of receiving a removal request. Removal of this type of graffiti will be free to both private residents and businesses.

Businesses will be charged for the Council's Graffiti Removal Service. Call **01375 652652** for more information and to arrange a quote.

To help Thurrock Council respond quickly, it must have the owner's agreement to access the property and remove the graffiti. Please complete the agreement form attached.

www.thurrock.gov.uk



Note – the graffiti must be accessible. All graffiti is to be removed in accordance with Health and Safety limitations and within removal guidelines according to the surface, for example it might not be possible to remove graffiti at certain levels; graffiti will be removed from surfaces only where the surface material permits.

In the first instance the council aims to remove graffiti, if this is not possible the area will be painted in a 'best match' colour.

Enforce

Thurrock does not have, nor does it plan to have, a legal graffiti wall. The council regards graffiti as an act of criminal damage and adopts a zero tolerance approach, to protect public and private property.

Essex Police arrest those caught tagging or carrying spray cans and our Community Protection Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) also have the legislative powers to issue fixed penalty notices to anyone caught defacing public or private property.

Damaging property with graffiti is a criminal offence. Like all criminal offences you can report it to the local police.

The council's Community Protection and Housing teams will take action against anyone who commits graffiti vandalism to council property. It also links with police in prosecutions for this offence.

Thurrock Council will take photographs of all graffiti removed, which may be used as evidence in court.

The council runs the TAG campaign which asks for your help in identifying those people who commit vandalism through graffiti.

If you have information on graffiti 'taggers' in your area you can call **01375 652652** or you can call Crimestoppers anonymously and give any information that might result in those responsible being brought to justice.

Crimestoppers can be contacted on **0800 555 111**.



Data Protection Statement:

The purpose for collecting your personal details on this form is to allow the Council to process your request for graffiti removal. Once the form has been completed the Council will store the details securely and confidentially within the Environmental Enforcement team. Access to the information you provide will be on a strictly need to know basis and the information will be retained for one year before being securely disposed of/deleted from our systems. This information will not be shared externally with any other organisations or partners unless you agree for us to take legal action against any perpetrators, in which case we may need to share your information with the Police.

Graffiti Removal Agreement Form

For private residential and business property.

Please complete this form and return it to:

Graffiti Team
Street Services Department
Thurrock Council
Manorway Estate
Curzon Drive
RM17 6BQ

I/We request graffiti removal from the address shown below:

Name:

Address:

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..... Postcode:

Telephone number:

Email:

Exact location of graffiti (eg side wall):

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Size of graffiti in square metres:



Continued overleaf

I confirm I am the owner of the property on which the graffiti is located.

OR

I confirm I have been authorised by the owner to sign on his/her behalf and I have received their authorisation by letter/telephone (please specify):

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.....

I agree that Thurrock Council shall not be liable to me for any loss or damage occurring to my property as a result of any graffiti removal work on my property.

I agree to indemnify the council against all liabilities and expenses arising from any claim made against it that arises directly or indirectly as a result of any graffiti removal work on my property.

Please tick if you agree to the council or the police taking legal action against anyone who may be subsequently arrested for damaging your property, and that any photographs taken of graffiti removed may be used in evidence.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU AGREE WITH THE TERMS OF THE FREE GRAFFITI REMOVAL SERVICE AND HAVE TICKED THE ABOVE BOXES.

The council offers an anti-graffiti coating service to both residential and business property owners. Please note there is a charge for this service. For more information and to arrange a quote contact **01375 652652**.

Please note businesses will be charged for the removal of graffiti. For more details on this service – call 01375 652652.

Signed:

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Date:

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