

Code Enforcement

Mission:

To provide fair, sensitive, and timely responses to the concerns of the residents of Hawaiian Gardens in order to maintain and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

The Code Enforcement Division responds to complaints from citizens and other agencies regarding the enforcement of all Municipal Code regulations and Ordinances within the City of Hawaiian Gardens.

To help facilitate compliance with the City's standards, the City Council has initiated a program to help provide residents with an understanding of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code as it relates to some of the more common code enforcement issues.

Other brochures in the series discuss the following issues:

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Bulky Items, Illegal Dumping
- Canopies/Small Tents and Tarps
- Trash and Debris
- Vendors and Peddlers

Pride and Responsibility

It is the City's goal to achieve voluntary compliance. We encourage tenants and property owners to take pride and responsibility in maintaining their properties.

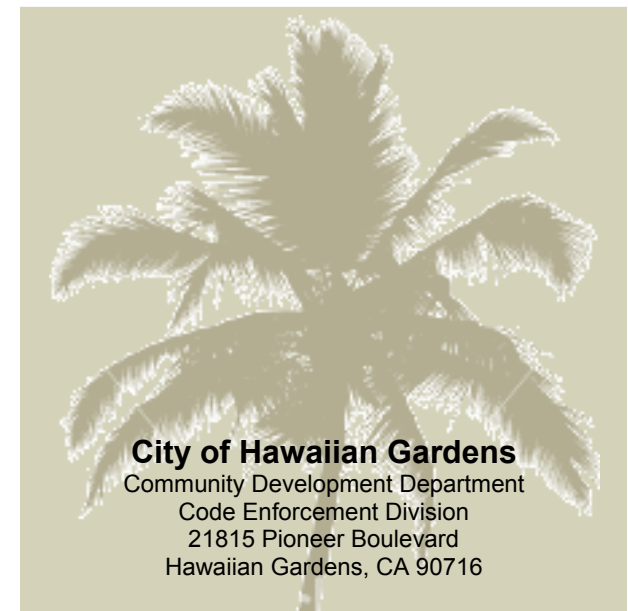
If you have any questions regarding this issue or would like to report a problem with graffiti or other code enforcement issue in your neighborhood, please call the City of Hawaiian Gardens Code Enforcement Division at (562) 420-2641 Ext. 221/224/277.



Example of graffiti on a wall.

Grffiti

Understanding Code Enforcement General Guidelines



City of Hawaiian Gardens
Community Development Department
Code Enforcement Division
21815 Pioneer Boulevard
Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716



City of Hawaiian Gardens
21815 Pioneer Boulevard
Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716
P: 562.420.2641
F: 562.420.8521
www.hgcity.org

The Problem

Graffiti is often done on buildings, walls, fences, trash containers, and other surfaces. All graffiti is done illegally and it is against the law. Graffiti on public or private property negatively affects neighborhoods in Hawaiian Gardens by:

- Reducing property values,
- Damages or destroys property,
- Promoting blight and deterioration,
- And, it adds up to a public nuisance.

Because this situation constitutes a public nuisance, the City Council has given the Community Development Director the authority to administer and enforce the Municipal Code as it pertains to graffiti (HGMC Chapter 6.36).

Public Nuisance

Graffiti is an issue that the City and Code Enforcement takes very seriously. It detracts from the visual appearance of the City and creates hazards to the health and safety of its residents. The Municipal Code states that graffiti is obnoxious and a public nuisance which must be abated to avoid its detrimental impacts and to prevent the further spread of graffiti.

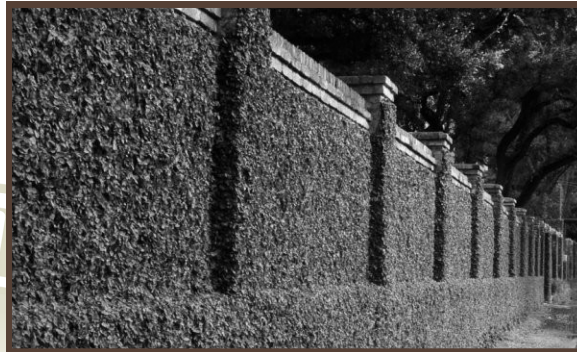
Graffiti Implements

No person shall have in his/her possession any graffiti implement while in any public park, public playground, public swimming pool, public recreational facility or any public right-of-way within the city unless authorized by the city.

How can I prevent Graffiti?

The best way to prevent graffiti is to remove it as soon as possible. Sometimes this may be difficult but studies show that removal within 24 hours results in a nearly zero rate of the graffiti occurring again. Additionally residents and business owners can pitch in to work with the city to help prevent graffiti.

Other ways to help prevent graffiti include using graffiti resistant materials for buildings or natural plant materials (i.e. vines, ivy, etc.) to cover walls.



Example of an ivy covered wall

Title 6: Health and Safety

Chapter 6.36: Graffiti

DEFINITIONS

Graffiti: Any unauthorized inscription, work, figure or design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn or painted on any surface of public or private buildings, structures and places.

Graffiti Implement: A marking pen with a tip exceeding four millimeters in width containing anything other than a solution which can be removed with water after it dries; a paint stick; any spray container containing any fluid which will leave a permanent mark after it dries, other than an aerosol container of paint, or a deodorant stick, or a deodorant roll-on, which has been modified with an opaque colorant.

Removal of Graffiti

The removal of graffiti is required through the following methods:

- Any person who applies graffiti must remove the graffiti within 24 hours of being notified by the city or affected private property owner subject to the restrictions set forth in section 6.36.080(A) of the HGMC.
- The city may remove the graffiti at the City's expense subject to the restrictions set forth in section 6.36.080(B) of the HGMC.
- The city may remove the graffiti at the property owner's expense subject to the restrictions set forth in section 6.36.080(C) of the HGMC.

Enforcement

When Code Enforcement locates graffiti, or witnesses an act of graffiti, they can initiate the Administrative Citation Process and require that the person(s) responsible clean up the site. The Administrative Citation Process includes, but is not limited to, warning notices and citations with increasing fees for each violation. Refer to the "Code Enforcement" brochure in this series for a complete discussion of the role of Code Enforcement and the Administrative Citation Process.



Example of Graffiti