

HDLC Graffiti Abatement Guide

Graffiti should be removed quickly to prevent it from permanently adhering to masonry. **Do not paint over graffiti located on previously unpainted masonry like in the photo below.** For the best results, it is necessary to understand the type of masonry and paint used to reduce possible masonry damage during cleaning. In an instance where a severe stain or graffiti is present, it might be necessary to use a chemical-based cleaner in a limited area. (suggested products listed below) **Caution** should be taken by testing the effect of the proposed cleaner on a discrete area of the building before using it on a principal elevation. It is best to use the most diluted concentration to minimize potential damage of the masonry surface.

HDLC approval is required for masonry cleaning with any material or device other than a garden hose.



THE HDLC REQUIRES:

- Using the most gentle method of cleaning possible; using a garden hose and water pressure of no more than 50 psi to minimize erosion and etching; Using clean, potable water without excessive salt, acid, minerals or trace metal that can discolor masonry
- Using a non-ionic detergent (i.e. dish soap) and a natural bristle brush when water cleaning is not successful
- Cleaning masonry a minimum of one month before a freezing temperature to minimize potential for spalling

THE HDLC DOES NOT ALLOW:

- Cleaning with a harsh chemical, acid, bleach, sand blaster, power washer, metal brush or grinder as it damages the protective exposed surface
- Painting over previously unpainted masonry in order to cover graffiti.

Each of these products below, which have been reviewed by the NCPTT, has advantages and disadvantages depending on the surfaces to which they are applied. A poultice type of cleaner is generally preferred. It is important to thoroughly rinse any remaining cleaner away from the surface after use on historic masonry. Rinsing should be done at low pressures (garden hose):

- Prosoco's fast acting stripper
- Dumond Watch Dog "Porous Surface" Graffiti Remover
- Dumond Peel Away 1



DO NOT PAINT OVER UNPAINTED MASONRY TO ABATE GRAFITTI!

Have Questions? Contact the HDLC at (504) 658-7040 or email at hdlcstaff@nola.gov

Additional information on our website at www.nola.gov

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