

VANDALISM

ASSAULT

THEFT

There's no room for any of this on our public transport system.

If you have any information to share and you want to help keep public transport safe, call Crime Stoppers - you don't even have to leave your name.

1800 333 000



An Australian Government Initiative

This project was funded by the Australian Government

www.crimestoppers.com.au

Remember, for emergencies and immediate Police attendance dial 000

IF YOU'VE SEEN SOMETHING

SAY SOMETHING

1800 333 000

WWW.CRIMESTOPPERS.COM.AU

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Herald Sun



Crime Stoppers Victoria acknowledges the generous support of our strategic partners:

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PUTTING THE FINGER

ON GRAFFITI



1800 333 000

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HOW THIS LEAFLET CAN

HELP YOU

Many people are concerned about graffiti and property damage, but are often uncertain about how to report people who engage in such acts of vandalism.

- Do you know who to call if you see someone marking graffiti?
- What can you do to help clean-up graffiti in your local community?
- What can you do if someone you know is vandalising property or marking graffiti?

If you are concerned about the continuing problem of graffiti in your community, then this leaflet will help you.

WHAT IS GRAFFITI?

The term graffiti refers to the illegal defacement of private or public property, without the owner's permission, in such a way that the markings cannot be readily removed. It can take the form of writing, drawing, marking or scratching of colours, shapes or pictures on buildings, overpasses, trains, trams, buses, billboards and other surfaces, both indoors and outdoors.

The materials used to mark graffiti include spray paint, markers and felt pens, acid etching, stencils and sharp objects such as knives, rocks and keys.

Grffiti may be artistic and inoffensive. It may be confronting or obscene. It might take the form of a slogan which incites racial hatred. It could be a signature ("tag") or a mural. Regardless of the content, and even if the material has artistic merit, without a permit from the local council or the property owner's permission, it is an act of vandalism. A criminal act.

If you would like to know more about graffiti and its consequences, visit justice.vic.gov.au/graffiti. To find out what's happening about graffiti in your community, visit your local council's website – go to dpcd.vic.gov.au and browse the "Guide to Local Government" section.

How graffiti can affect you...

"I live in a small terrace house in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. There is a laneway down one side and the wall is regularly spray painted. If I don't clean it off, more and more graffiti is put on the wall. I have almost lost count of the cost over the years, thousands of dollars I reckon. And I'm living on a pension."

- Inner city resident, Melbourne



Even if you have not had your own house or other property vandalised, graffiti and vandalism still affect you. Governments, local councils and property owners spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year on graffiti removal and these costs are reflected in government taxes, council rates and charges, and higher property insurance and rental rates.

The quick removal of graffiti is a key means of discouraging further attacks. Graffiti offenders want their graffiti seen, so its quick removal lessens the impact. And if graffiti is not removed from a location, more graffiti tends to occur.

We all subsidise the cost of removing graffiti from railway carriages, trams and train stations through taxes and increased fares.

Shops that are vandalised pass on the clean-up costs and increased security costs to you through their prices.

The money spent removing graffiti and repairing other acts of vandalism in schools could have been spent on education programs for children in your area.

If your neighbourhood is heavily vandalised and graffiti is not regularly cleaned up then the look of the area may decline and people may feel less safe. In some areas, councils have chosen to fine property owners who do not clean up graffiti on their property within a certain time.

Graffiti is sometimes committed by organised groups of youths or 'crews'. This type of behaviour can lead to more serious criminal activity in the future and significant costs for the community. Graffiti is not a victimless crime. We all pay.



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF MARKING GRAFFITI?

Graffiti can be dangerous. Statistics show that the vast majority of people who commit acts of graffiti and vandalism are young – about 80% of alleged offenders are under 19 years of age and often put themselves in great danger. Attempting to tag a billboard, a high wall, or a tram or moving train can be extremely unsafe, with some graffiti vandals being severely injured and even killed. Graffiti vandals can also harm themselves by inhaling noxious fumes from spray paint cans.

In Victoria, recent legislation means that someone caught marking graffiti can be jailed or given a very heavy fine. Penalties of up to two years imprisonment and fines over \$25,000 now apply. Possessing a spray paint can without a lawful excuse while on or adjacent to public transport property or infrastructure, or trespassing on private property, can result in an on-the-spot penalty of more than \$550.

If you would like to know more about the new graffiti laws and penalties, visit: www.justice.vic.gov.au/graffiti



WHO TO CALL AND WHEN?

Call 000 for immediate police attendance ... if you see someone in the act of vandalising property or marking graffiti. Do not approach the person. Be aware of your own safety.

Contact your local council or police station ... to report property that has previously been graffitied. Find your local council online at dpcd.vic.gov.au and search the "Guide to Local Government" section. Find your local police station online at police.vic.gov.au and search the "Your Local Police" section.

Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 ... to report someone who you know has been involved in marking graffiti or vandalising property, or to report the "owner" of a "tag" that you have seen marked illegally on property.

Call Crime Stoppers 365 days of the year between 7:00am and 11:00pm.

Contact Crime Stoppers online at crimestoppers.com.au

For translation services call 13 14 50.

Crime Stoppers does not require that you identify yourself and our telephone operators do not have caller ID.



"I'm a tagger. No point trying to hide it because I've been caught. I couldn't believe it. I had two spray cans in my back pack on the train. The next thing I know these two cops are talking to me. They gave me an on-the-spot fine of \$550. I'm at school. I've got to get mum to pay. She isn't too happy either. I just can't understand how they knew I had the cans."

- 16 year old graffiti vandal, Gippsland

WHAT IS

CRIME STOPPERS?



Crime Stoppers is an independent community-based not-for-profit organisation which works in very close co-operation with Victoria Police.

It is part of a worldwide network of Crime Stoppers organisations. Originating in the United States in 1976, you will now find independent Crime Stoppers operations in Australia, Asia, Canada, Europe and Africa. There are more than 1,200 Crime Stoppers around the world.

Crime Stoppers has been operating in Victoria since November 1987.

If you would like to support the work we do, you can make a donation to: Crime Stoppers Victoria
18/412 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004
Email csv@crimestoppers.com.au

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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PUTTING THE FINGER ON THEFT FROM FARMS AND COUNTRY SHEDS



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HOW THIS LEAFLET CAN

HELP YOU

If you live in the country or on a farm, you could be an easy target for thieves looking for machinery, equipment and other valuable items in outbuildings, sheds or on farm fields.

A farmer's capital often includes expensive equipment, can be spread over many hectares and could be isolated for much of the time.

This leaflet provides helpful hints about farm security for people working or living on the land.

REPORTING THEFT

FROM FARMS AND COUNTRY SHEDS

One of the major obstacles facing Victoria Police when dealing with crime on farms, is the lack of reporting by farmers. If a theft goes unreported, it is impossible for police to be able to investigate, ultimately encouraging offenders to steal again.

No matter how petty a theft may seem, it is vitally important that it is reported to police. Even one seemingly minor report could provide information for use in larger investigations.

Some farmers choose not to report theft due to a fear of repercussions. The alternative is to contact Crime Stoppers. Your identity will be protected, but the information you supply will be provided to police and a thief could be stopped.

Crime Stoppers staff prepare reports from the information they receive and pass them onto the relevant Police Unit. This could be your local police, the Criminal Investigation Unit, or another section of police depending on the nature of the offence. Victoria Police have approximately 100 investigators who have received specialist training in rural theft.

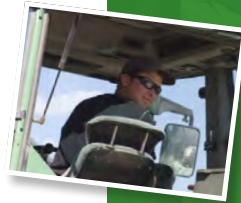


How to protect your property...

"Times have been tough enough for the man on the land in recent years. With so much to cope with, it is easy to forget something minor like locking your shed. That's what happened to me, and it cost me thousands of dollars worth of equipment.

I've learned my lesson. It is pretty hard to stop determined thieves, but your chances are a lot better if you make life as difficult as possible for them."

- Farmer, Western District



The theft of machinery and machinery parts causes both personal and financial loss for farmers, and the inconvenience of insurance claims and replacing equipment.

In the first instance, it is important to secure or immobilize vehicles and equipment when not in use and if possible, remove machinery from fields, especially near roads. It might be time consuming, but it is better to be safe than sorry!

You should:

- Remove keys from machinery
- Lock doors of machinery cabs
- Store large farm equipment and machinery in secure sheds or group in a highly visible area
- Return broken down machinery to a locked shed
- Store valuable equipment and tools in a secure building behind a locked door and out of sight
- Consider building a lockable metal cage inside a building for tool storage
- Install outdoor security lights where you have valuable equipment

Remember that a farm is an ideal target for theft because of its relative isolation. It costs nothing to be alert! Be vigilant and always report anything suspicious to police.

If you have information about an incident, please contact police or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000



WHO TO CALL AND WHEN?

Your Local Police

If you have had equipment stolen from your property, you should contact your local police.

Crime Stoppers

If you have information about theft from farms, or any other criminal matter, you have the option of calling Crime Stoppers, or reporting that information on line via our secure website.

Call Crime Stoppers 365 days of the year between 7:00am and 11:00pm on 1800 333 000

Contact Crime Stoppers online 24 hours at www.crimestoppers.com.au

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