



## ADBA GRAFFITI REMOVAL AND PREVENTION GRANT

### PURPOSE

To alleviate the burden of cost of store/building graffiti removal. The goal of this grant is to have graffiti removed as quickly as possible from a building or structure privately owned in the downtown within the Abbotsford Downtown Business Improvement Bylaw area. Removal done promptly supports the integrity of character, maintains a high level of neighbourhood presentation, and decrease additional tagging as often the behaviour is repeated to gain more attention. The City of Abbotsford has a Bylaw prohibiting graffiti on any building; Bylaw No. 1256-2003 GOOD NEIGHBOUR BYLAW, 2003 .

<https://municipal.qp.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/coa/coabylaws/2003b1256>

Fines for not removing graffiti from a property may be incurred by property owners. Often, a graffiti site may 'experience' tagging multiple times in a year. This program supports the fact that an owner or merchant may have to access grant funds more than one time in one calendar year to eradicate the problem.

### OVERVIEW:

Graffiti vandalism is the writing or drawings done on a structure of building face that is generally characterized by a lack of permission from the property owner. It is a deliberate defacing or damaging of a structure or object. This grant has the sole purpose of assisting business or property owner with graffiti vandalism. If you find graffiti vandalism on your property, or receive a City of Abbotsford Bylaw notice, it is your responsibility as a property owner to remove it. This is done by the owner or by hiring a professional graffiti removal company. The ADBA views this grant as a method maintaining the character of the downtown by providing funding assistance. Leaving graffiti on surfaces does the following:

- Leaves the impression that no-one cares about downtown Abbotsford.
- Leads to an increase in crime and vandalism.
- Hurts business by discouraging shopping and dining.
- Impacts the sense of safety and security of workers, residents, and visitors.
- Looks unsightly and impacts civic pride.

It can be difficult to remove graffiti as it primarily involves a cleaning agent and power washing or on some porous surfaces, painting over. Coatings can be used to prevent further tagging.

There are two main types of **anti-graffiti coatings** available from many manufacturers on the market:

1. **Sacrificial Coating** – A sacrificial anti-graffiti coating forms a clear-coat barrier over the surface being protected. If the surface is vandalized, the protective coating can be removed (in other words, sacrificed) using a high-pressure washer, taking the graffiti with it. Sacrificial coatings are great for sound barriers, building exteriors, bridges, tanks, and any other surfaces with ground-level access.

- 2. Permanent** (or Non-Sacrificial) Coating Permanent anti-graffiti coatings are often more expensive than sacrificial coatings, but if used appropriately only have to be applied once. They work by creating a protective surface that spray paint cannot bond to. The graffiti is simply wiped off with a graffiti remover, leaving the graffiti coating and the surface it protects intact.

## ADBA GRAFFITI REMOVAL GUIDELINES

- The grant application must be submitted to the ADBA for approval by the Board.
- All requested receipts and supporting documents must be submitted before grant is approved.
- Grant is conditional upon repairs being completed within 2 weeks of the graffiti tagging.
- Grants will be awarded on a first come first serve basis until the yearly allotted budget is depleted.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The ADBA will provide funding assistance for the graffiti removal costs or preventative anti-graffiti coatings that are applied to a building face/structure allowing either easy removal or a non-stick surface that prevents any spray paint from adhering.

Removal OR Coatings:

Subject to approval, the ADBA will reimburse a property owner up to \$250 per graffiti occurrence up to a maximum of \$750 per calendar year. (approximately three (3) removals/year OR one (1) occurrence per year, up to a \$750 removal or preventative cost). This funding can be used for removal or anti-graffiti coating applications.

The ADBA requires the following to be eligible for reimbursement of removal costs:

1. Application for graffiti removal or anti-graffiti coatings reimbursement.
2. Date stamped picture of wall or structure where graffiti is located or where coatings will be installed.
3. Picture of same wall where graffiti has been removed.

Original receipts of service(s) used to remove graffiti or purchase receipt(s) of anti-graffiti coating product(s) applied are requested prior to grant reimbursement.

## ELIGIBILITY

Property owners in the Abbotsford Downtown Business Bylaw area that are registered members of the ADBA.

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

Graffiti vandalism removal:

1. Professional removal services (contracted in writing)
2. Graffiti removal products/cleaners/rental equipment

## Anti-Graffiti coatings

1. Professional application of anti-graffiti coatings
2. Cost of coatings supplies (if an owner will be applying themselves)

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Fill out application and submit to [office@downtownabbotsford.com](mailto:office@downtownabbotsford.com)
2. Please provide applicable receipts and attach to the application.
3. Please provide pictures requested on application.
4. Board will review at next scheduled meeting.
5. Cheque will be issued from the ADBA.

NOTE: Grant applications will be considered on a first come first served basis and awarded based upon previous grants awarded to the applicant (see limitations of 3 occurrences/year) as approved by the ADBA Board according to requirements being fulfilled and according to funds available.