



Vandalism is a bigger problem than you may think. Have you ever seen graffiti-covered walls, torn pages in library books, or spray painted garbage cans? All of these things count as vandalism. Vandalism is the willful destruction of property that is not your own. A community that has signs of vandalism gives criminals the impression that residents don't care about their neighborhood, and a neighborhood that doesn't care is an easy target for crime. Don't let this happen to your neighborhood—take a stand against vandalism.

Types of vandalism

- Graffiti
- Spray painted mailboxes or garbage cans
- Broken street lights
- Spray painted street signs
- Writing in library books

Why people vandalize

- Boredom
- Anger
- Revenge
- Defiance
- Peer pressure

The price of vandalism

- Millions of dollars each year are spent on cleaning up graffiti and repairing or replacing vandalized equipment.
- Local governments and taxpayers pay higher taxes in order to pay for damage caused by vandalism.
- Businesses hike up the prices on things you buy to pay for vandalized property.



How you can help

- Say “no” to any type of vandalism.
- Start a community clean-up crew at your school or neighborhood. Paint over graffiti or help repair broken property.
- Ask local businesses to donate supplies, such as paint, paintbrushes, or tools to repair things around your neighborhood with your friends.
- Write articles in your school paper about the costs and consequences of vandalism.

