

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

General

The removal of graffiti is extremely demanding for cleaning agent. Many factors play a role in cleaning, because no two single applications are identical. For that reason, it is not possible to make any generally valid statement with the regard to the cleaning result.

However, this does not reflect on the quality of the product, but is subject to the nature of "graffiti removal". In the end, the customer's situation is sure to improve.

Successful removal of graffiti depends on various influencing factors

Surface

If the structure of the surface is very coarse and porous, the colour pigments are able to penetrate deeply into the material and are very difficult to removed.

Types of graffiti

Paint sprays, colour and felt pens are used in graffiti. Since the graffiti consists of various, widely differing paints and solvents, it is not possible to clean away all contaminations with one "all-round" cleaning agent without harming the surface.

Solvents

Many graffiti cases (e.g. non water-soluble felt pens) contain solvents. Owing to this, sensitive surfaces are partly etched and damaged. Consequently, "shadows" remain after the removal of the colour pigments of the graffiti.

Under certain conditions, it is also possible that the solvent forms a chemical bond with the surface material, which cannot be removed afterwards at all.

Temperature

Graffiti which has been exposed to direct sunlight for some time is even harder to remove. Freezing temperatures may delay the reacting time of the cleaning agent used for the removal of graffiti.

Age

The following principal rule applies: the fresher the graffiti, the easier it can be removed.

Paint layers

Graffiti consisting of several built-up layers of paint requires a longer reacting time of the cleaning agent and, in most cases, several applications.

Application

Basically, the following rule applies: Always carry out a cleaning test in an inconspicuous place to test material compatibility and colour fastness.

Reacting times can vary widely. This depends on the surface, type, age, etc. of the graffiti to be removed. Therefore, depending on the case, they must be individually adjusted and, if required, extended.

Several applications may be required in case of very stubborn graffiti.

Hard insect removal sponges and brushes are suitable for use as **mechanical aids** in graffiti removal. Afterwards, the surface must be thoroughly rinsed with water.

Wipe off the dissolved paint with cloths. These must afterwards be disposed of as hazardous waste. After the removal of the graffiti the cleaned area will probably stand out from its **surroundings**. This is because dirt particles are also removed together with the graffiti.