
MODULE 3 - Types Of Removals

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In order to become comfortable at job-sites, writing quotes, or talking with customers about graffiti, you will need to know the processes and technical side of how each removal is going to go. Knowing the different processes between a split-face block wall and a stucco wall that have graffiti on them will help with building quotes and will save money on only requiring one trip to a job-site. Being comfortable in your area of expertise will help you accomplish quality work, but more importantly it will allow you to focus on other aspects of a job-site, such as you and your team's safety.

This will explain the different types of surfaces that you will come across and how to properly assess what to do in each situation.

3.1 Surface Types

Porous Surface

A porous surface is defined by the surface allowing water or fluids to penetrate deeper than the surface. For example, glass is non-porous, but a sponge would be porous.

Most masonry products are porous. You might not be able to see the holes that liquid can seep into, but if you put water on a concrete surface that isn't sealed, it will eventually soak through. You may have also seen ground water come through the floor in a home's crawl space during a high water table (spring flooding), or efflorescence on bricks, which is when minerals and water come out in a white chalky residue.

Each masonry product has a different feature or level of porosity depending on how they were dried, or which ingredients were used in their mix. You will see different methods for removing graffiti in the following section (3.2). You will also find, over time, that the same graffiti products (spray bombs, felts, etcetera) aren't removed in the same manner every time because of these differences. Experience will be a key factor in performing jobs quicker because you will learn which methods and dwell times work in various situations.

A pressure washer is required for graffiti removal on porous surfaces because you won't be able to manually agitate product over the paint when it's deeper than what a tool can physically reach. The high pressure water has enough force to do this required agitating. It also rinses the paint off with the removal product at the same time, leaving you with a clean substrate.

Non-Porous Surface (Referred To As Soft Removals)

Non-porous is the most direct name for these surfaces. Glass, metal, hard plastics, and most tiles are all examples of non-porous surfaces. Since they don't allow graffiti, or anything else, to penetrate deeper than the surface, the graffiti on them can be removed much easier and seldom ever require a pressure washer.

A product can be applied, agitated, wiped off, and lightly finished with a clean wet rag. Even some factory painted surfaces (such as metal doors) have a harder paint finish than graffiti products, so removals are common on these painted surfaces. However, if it is not a factory painted surface (oil paint) then the paint might not be as strong or stable and any graffiti removal products will simply remove all of the paint along with the graffiti.

Products

Paints are composed of pigments (provides colour), a binder (holds the pigments to the substrate), and a solvent (allows the pigment/binder mixture to flow). Some spray paints and markers may contain dyes instead of pigments. Paints are applied wet and as the solvent evaporates the binder solidifies. The greater the solvent content of the paint, the greater the flow rate, and thus, the greater the ability of the paint to penetrate into the pores.

Remove My Graffiti Inc. products release the binder that is in the paint or ink and allow the pigment to move and be cleaned off. Always let the product dwell long enough for the graffiti to start to move/release. Once the binder has been released, you can clean off the pigment.

Module 3.2 will discuss how to remove graffiti from specific surfaces and will associate a product with each type of removal.

Always wear eye protection and gloves when using any products as they are designed to remove paints and can cause irritation. Always read product directions, SDS, and safety recommendations before using.



GRAFFITI SYRUP - POROUS SURFACE GRAFFITI REMOVER

This product is designed to remove paint, felt, waxes, & ink from stone, brick, concrete, & wood. Apply the Graffiti Syrup over the graffiti and let it dwell for 2-30+ minutes, depending on the substrate and paint/graffiti product. Don't let the product dry on the surface. Apply more if needed during the dwell time. Once the graffiti starts to liquify, remove with pressure washer from multiple angles. Hot water pressure washers will have quicker and better results.

This product is biodegradable and has a PH of 7.



VAMOOSE - SMOOTH SURFACE GRAFFITI REMOVER

This environmentally responsible product removes paint, felt, & glue residue from metals, glass, varnished wood, factory painted metal surfaces, & marble. It has a mild citrus scent and is a gentle solution to a wide range of different types of graffiti.

Removing graffiti with this product is simple. Open cap and squirt product on the graffiti directly, or onto a scouring pad and immediately agitate the graffiti with product. Completely cover the graffiti with the Vamoose and let product sit for 30 seconds to 3 minutes. Do not let

the product dry out. Add more and lightly scour the area as it is drying or dwelling. Once the graffiti is liquifying/moving/dissolving, scour the area until it is all liquid. Wipe with a clean rag and rinse the area with water or a clean wet rag. If needed, repeat the steps until you get all of the graffiti off. For hard to remove graffiti, such as graffiti that has multiple coats of paint, or is on slightly bumpy surfaces that are still considered smooth, Beaver Bite is the next step up in strength.



BEAVER BITE - EXTRA STRENGTH SMOOTH SURFACE GRAFFITI REMOVER

Formulated to be slightly stronger than Vamoose, this product is the perfect fit between Vamoose and Graffiti Syrup. Removing directions are the same as Vamoose, but it has deeper penetrating power like Graffiti Syrup has for masonry products. If you have a very absorbent surface that Vamoose doesn't reach down to, such as synthetic materials that are commonly used on benches or municipal garbage cans, reach for a bottle of Beaver Bite and gently agitate with a soft steel wool. Always do a test patch for scratching before attempting the graffiti. Be sure to rinse with water, like Vamoose requires, and don't let it dry on the surface.

*** REMOVE MY GRAFFITI PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ***

Part of our company mission is to be ahead of environmental regulations. By keeping our products biodegradable and not providing any single use products, we hope you'll be encouraged to do the same. This is the reason why we don't provide graffiti wipes. If you or your company/municipality currently use or want them, please consider taking the extra moment to make a graffiti kit that can be used multiple times without having to throw anything out, such as small packaging, single-use gloves, and the wipes. Vamoose and Beaver Bite can be used with better results when using a scouring pad, reusable rag, and reusable gloves. All of these product fit easily into a kit that has minimal waste for multiple removals.