



Graffiti vandalism is a problem in many New Zealand communities.

It is also a crime carrying penalties ranging from fines and community work to prison sentences.

The Government has developed a nationwide approach to combat graffiti vandalism – the Stop Tagging Our Place (STOP) Strategy. The strategy includes a range of responses to address graffiti vandalism. One response is a change to the law which restricts the sale of spray paint cans.

## THE RESTRICTIONS:

- Retailers cannot sell spray paint cans to people less than 18 years of age under any circumstances, even if the sale is for, or claimed to be for, an adult.
- You may need to produce evidence of age documentation to buy spray paint cans. Retailers are instructed by law to sight specified evidence of age documentation for a person before selling spray paint cans to that person, unless they are satisfied the person is over 18 years of age.
- If shop owners or staff disregard the instructions above, and sell spray paint to a person less than 18 years of age, they will be committing an offence under section 14A of the Summary Offences Act 1981, and be personally liable for a fine of up to \$1500.
- Spray paint cans will not be immediately accessible to you in shops. Under section 14B of the Summary Offences Act 1981, access to spray paint cans in shops must be restricted. Spray paint cans must be stored in such a way that members of the public cannot obtain possession of them without the help of shop staff. If you want to buy spray paint cans, please ask shop staff to give you the appropriate access.

## AN EXCEPTION – SPRAY PAINT FOR SCHOOL USE

Under section 14A of the Summary Offences Act 1981, the sale of spray paint cans to people under 18 years of age is prohibited. An exception to this is if you are a student enrolled in a school or tertiary institution, and your school or tertiary institution sells you paint in order to enable you to undertake work for a course, or to complete an assignment or project for the school or tertiary institution.

## WHAT IS PROOF OF AGE DOCUMENTATION?

This can be: a New Zealand passport, an overseas passport, a driver licence issued under the Land Transport Act 1998, or a document issued by a specified person, organisation, body corporate, government department, Crown agency, or statutory board (for example, a HANZ 18+ card).

Thank you for helping to **STOP**  
graffiti crime in New Zealand.