Painting is easy when you don’t know how, but very difficult when you do.  

-Edgar Degas

The High-Cost and Damage of Graffiti

Efforts towards better graffiti removal are planned for 2015

Prior to 1990, graffiti was found on Caltrans facilities and removed from time to time. It was viewed primarily as a nuisance to be dealt with along with other work. Presently, it commands a great deal of time and resources that are used to ensure the removal of unsightly graffiti. At the same time, the graffiti problems remain with moderate success in abatement. Caltrans recognizes the importance of quickly removing graffiti in order to discourage further vandal activity.

Graffiti removal is scheduled by highway route segments for intensive clean-up. Graffiti that jeopardizes motorist safety, obscene in nature, or politically-oriented is removed as soon as possible.

Abatement techniques include painting over the entire area (fence, wall, etc.), spot painting, chemical removal, power washing, or a combination of these techniques. All painting is color matched on location to the existing surface to ensure restoration of the site to its original appearance.

Caltrans has been experimenting with new and innovative ways of graffiti removal and prevention. Graffiti that was once seen only on walls is now showing up on overhead signs, retaining walls, bridges and bridge columns.

With increasing cost for graffiti removal (which exceeds $20,000/month) and an average of 150,000 square feet of abatement per month, new and innovative methods are being explored.

Graffiti is a community-wide problem with both public and private facilities being affected and seriously impairing community appearance and values. The quick removal of graffiti is the most effective means to prevent further acts of vandalism.

Article excerpt Department of Transportation, California dated December 15, 2014

Few people are aware of the strength and assortment of toxins we breathe in daily, while indoors – not just at work or in shops, but also at home. Indoor air can, in fact, be three times as polluted as that outdoors. The US Environmental Protection Agency considers indoor air pollution to be one of the top 5 hazards to human health. Over the last twenty years, regulators across the world have applied ever-restrictive limitations on VOC levels in coatings. While the purpose was to reduce emissions into the atmosphere, individuals have benefitted directly from improved air quality indoors.

Q&A

Is there really such thing as “Sick Building Syndrome”?

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How green are your commercial products?

Rising concern with environmental impact has created awareness and preference

There are two levels to assess a green product - how it was made and its impact on the environment during and after use or application. A green product not only poses no threat to the environment or people, it also has direct and indirect positive benefits on the environment.

As an example, green coatings have a direct environmental benefit in that the coating is water based with low VOC’s, no ozone depleting substances, and is non-toxic, biodegradable and Class A Fire Rated; and should be so clean that they can be applied in the presence of pregnant women and children. The indirect environmental benefit is that green coatings can turn an environmentally distressed property green. If the property contains asbestos or lead based painted surfaces, those surfaces can be sealed in place, as with leaks that are causing sick building syndrome from mold and mildew. A green industrial coating can also green a roof so it becomes solar and heat reflective, UV impact, and abuse-resistant, making it last longer.

These are the greater benefits of a green coating that can recycle old dilapidated, environmentally distressed buildings and turn them green; minimizing the generation of unwanted waste that must then be transported and disposed of in our already overflowing landfills or waste storage facilities.

How can you be sure the green claims are true? A green product has testing and approvals by independent third parties. So the next time you choose a green product, make sure it’s not only made green but will continue to be green during use or application and throughout its lifecycle. And remember, “Don’t Replace, Just Encase!”

SMATER COATING

5 Ways to Reduce Graffiti in Your City

1. Know what type of surface the graffiti is on before applying proper surface protection
2. Choose the right type of product to prevent graffiti
3. Choose an ecological solution and protection coatings against graffiti
4. Do not wait to remove graffiti by a specialist, do it now!
5. Invest in the purchase of surface protectors and proven anti-graffiti solutions

PAINTING & COATINGS STRATEGY

Notable Quotable

Lead Abatement, Inspection, and Risk Assessment

Lead abatement is an activity designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards. Abatement is sometimes ordered by a state or local government, and can involve specialized techniques not typical of most residential or commercial contractors.

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency www.EPA.gov

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