



Graffiti, posters, signs and other similar elements in public streets

Barcelona has various services tasked with cleaning and keeping different elements and urban furniture free of graffiti, as many of these need specific treatment: monuments and sculptures, street lighting cabinets, traffic lights, road signs etc.

In terms of street furniture and facilities, cleaning is carried out by each of the public or private bodies responsible for them. In the case of façades, it is the responsibility of the owners of the property.

However, the City Council takes a proactive approach and provides free cleaning for the walls and façades of non-listed buildings, whether public or private, based on the by-law on the uses of urban landscape.

As of 24 January 2021, a new service contract is in place for the cleaning of graffiti, daubed paint, the removal of posters, signs and other similar elements in public streets.

The service is made up of 26 teams on working days (Mondays to Saturdays): 14 teams in the morning + 12 in the afternoon, and 5 teams on Sundays and public holidays (3 teams in the morning and 2 in the afternoon). The service also has six detectors to identify graffiti in the street and plan cleaning work, as well as four inspectors to ensure and check the correct execution and completion of tasks.

There is a specific commitment to cleaning offensive graffiti from properties not listed as heritage and within 24 hours of being notified (except for justified reasons). What constitutes offensive content is described in article 16 of the by-law on civic behaviour: denigration of people's dignity; content which is xenophobic, racist, sexist or homophobic, insults, mockery, psychological or physical coercion, aggression or other forms of conduct that belittle others.

Besides graffiti, the service removes posters from façades (using steam) and unauthorised signs from public streets (by cutting fastenings).

The sphere of action for the contract does not include the following areas:

The Zona Franca industrial estate, Port Vell, Port autònom, groynes and walls along the entire coastline, dual carriageways and motorways (including slip roads), the Ronda Litoral and Ronda de Dalt ring roads (including the central reservation and slip roads), Carretera de l'Arrabassada, Carretera d'Horta and Carretera de Vallvidrera (except the urban sections of these roads, viewing points and rest areas, which are included within this clause), municipal cemeteries (except for perimeter walls and other outer elements).

Neither does the contract include the cleaning of the following elements as they are managed by a public or private operator, or because they are governed by their own contract, which explicitly provides for cleaning: cabinets or casing belonging to service companies, post boxes, telephone boxes, containers, litter bins, pneumatic deposits, escalators and lifts, recreational

and sports areas managed by private entities or consortia, Bicing stations, road structures and unique urban spaces, lamp-posts and other public lighting installations, fountains, public and private parking facilities, public transport, urban furniture, monuments, sculptures, parking meters, pedestrian crossings, signage on the ground, green points, traffic signs, traffic lights, junction boxes for traffic lights, road tunnels in the city and inner walls along the Ronda de Dalt and Ronda Litoral ring roads, vehicles, pedestals, tables, sun shades and other specific furniture.

Neither does the contract provide for the cleaning of inner entrances, access walls to foyers, car parks or any other inner section which does not form part of the façade, nor any other element (doors, windows, displays, canopies, shutters, awnings, rails, woodwork, smoke extractor pipes, signs, antennas, downpipes, different apparatus etc.) other than the outer walls and vertical surfaces of a building or construction.

If graffiti is in a private place where cleaning is technically feasible (car park shutters, windows, displays, metal gates etc.), a chargeable cleaning service may be requested. The City Council will send a quote in this case.

The main new aspects to this service are:

- Inclusion of a new territorial sphere of action. Port Olímpic.
- Possibility of new tasks, some of them subsidiary: cleaning of street plaques, information stands, beach bars and municipally licensed news stands, cleaning of paint daubed on the ground, service cabinets and access doors within the façade (electricity, water, etc.).
- Possibility of carrying out special work: cleaning of vertical surfaces with self-contained high-pressure water-jet equipment, grinders, self-propelled elevation platforms etc., and bolstering the service with extra teams at night or on public holidays.
- Inclusion of measures to improve quality control.
- Prevention plan to cut noise pollution from new vehicles.
- Creation of a catalogue of tags to identify the authorship of graffiti, with artificial intelligence applied to recognise and identify images.
- Introduction of a new measuring system to improve productivity.