

Anti-Graffiti Coatings

Graffiti can affect many types of assets

What are anti-graffiti products?

Anti-graffiti products are coatings or surface treatments that prevent permanent adhesion of graffiti to the substrate. They do not prevent graffiti from being applied, but they make it easier to remove. There are different types of anti-graffiti products that work and affect the surface appearance in different ways:

Sacrificial Coating: clear, thin-film emulsions or solutions that are removed as the graffiti is removed when using a hot water blast, requiring re-application after each graffiti attack.

Semi-Sacrificial Coating: high-build coatings (usually acrylics) that shed a few microns with each graffiti removal and are reapplied after several cleaning cycles.

Non-Sacrificial:

Permanent Two-Component Coatings: form a hard, protective film and allow graffiti removal with solvents. They are either pigmented or clear.

Surface Treatments: transparent treatments that chemically modify the surface tension of the substrate and allow graffiti removal with a combination of chemical and hot water cleaning. Surface treatments may protect porous surfaces by preventing the graffiti from penetrating into the pores.

An effective anti-graffiti strategy must include a suitable anti-graffiti coating system that allows removal of graffiti and restoration of the original appearance.

What factors may affect graffiti resistance?

Graffiti resistance of a substrate depends on several factors, such as:

Whether it is bare (unpainted), painted or treated:

Unpainted surfaces are more porous and allow graffiti to penetrate, while painted surfaces seal the substrate but may be affected by solvents.

The type, gloss, colour and age of the coating:

Two-component coatings are more resistant to solvents and dyes than single-component coatings, and higher gloss and neutral colours show less shadowing. The extent of cross-linking in a polyurethane coating increases over time, while single-component coatings may chalk and absorb more graffiti.

The type, colour and age of the graffiti medium:

Two-component coatings are more resistant to solvents and dyes than single-component coatings. The extent of cross-linking in a two-component polyurethane coating increases over time, while single-component coatings may chalk and absorb more graffiti. Higher gloss and neutral colours tend to show less shadowing.

The substrate profile:

Smooth, glossy and continuous surfaces are easier to clean than rough or porous surfaces, which provide a strong key for graffiti to adhere.

How to choose anti-graffiti products?

The choice of anti-graffiti products depends on the desired appearance, porosity of the surface, and the preferred maintenance method of the surface.

If a surface needs to maintain its natural look, then a surface treatment may be preferred as it does not change the appearance. A clear, two-component product may impart a wet-look and make the surface appear darker than it naturally would.

If the surface needs a colour change and to be graffiti-free, a two-component finish is the best choice.

Porous surfaces may be better protected by a continuous coating of a sacrificial or permanent product, rather than a surface treatment which may allow graffiti into the pores of the surface. If the surface is small and easy to access, a sacrificial product may be suitable, as it is water-based, low VOC and easy to reapply. If the surface is large or difficult to access, a non-sacrificial product may be more practical, as it does not require reapplication.

What are graffiti-removing agents?

Graffiti-removing agents are mixtures of surface-active agents that emulsify graffiti and remove it from the surface. Just as there is a broad range of materials used to create graffiti, there is a broad range of graffiti removal product types and severity of products. They can be chemically aggressive, so follow the manufacturer's stated safety advice. Abrasive nylon pads or steel wool can help remove heavy deposits of graffiti.

Dulux Protective Coatings Anti-Graffiti Solutions

Dulux Protective Coatings offers a range of anti-graffiti products for different applications and preferences. Below is a selection of Dulux products:

Surfeshield® HD: a water-based, single-component, non-film forming, penetrating surface treatment. Graffiti and pollution can be removed with hot water pressure cleaning and cleaners.

Surfeshield® FP: a water-based, two-component fluoropolymer clearcoat for a wide range of substrates and painted surfaces.

Durethane™: a clear two-component polyurethane in High Gloss and Low Sheen for concrete. **Acrathane® IF range:** a two-component, isocyanate-free epoxy. Available as either a High Gloss or Low Sheen clearcoat or a High Gloss pigmented coating. It makes spray application practical on sites where polyurethanes are not permitted.

Duration® range: water-based, two-component topcoats in Gloss and Low Sheen. Duration® T74 is a polyurethane and Duration® T80 is a fluoropolymer.

Weathermax® HBR: a solid colour, Gloss, two-component, polyurethane for application by brush, roller or spray. It is available in the full colour range. It is suitable for maintenance work in high use areas.

Summary of Dulux Protective Coatings Anti-Graffiti Products

Product	Technology	Treatment or Coating	Pigmentation	Sheen
Surfeshield® HD	Water-based, co-polymer	Surface Treatment	Clear	Transparent
Surfeshield® FP	Solvent-based, fluoropolymer	Coating	Clear	Gloss or Satin
Durethane™	Solvent-based, polyester urethane	Coating	Clear	High Gloss or Low Sheen
Acrathane® IF Clearcoat	Solvent-based, catalysed acrylic	Coating	Clear	High Gloss or Low Sheen
Duration® T74	Water-based, polyurethane	Coating	Pigmented	High Gloss or Satin
Duration® T80	Water-based, fluoropolymer	Coating	Pigmented	Gloss or Satin
Acrathane® IF	Solvent-based, catalysed acrylic	Coating	Pigmented	High Gloss
Quantum® V92	Solvent-based, fluoropolymer	Coating	Pigmented	Gloss or Satin
Weathermax® HBR	Solvent-based, polyurethane	Coating	Pigmented	High Gloss

For more information, please contact the Dulux Protective Coatings Technical Consultant in your state. Product datasheets can be found on the Dulux Protective Coatings website.

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