

# How to Paint with a Fire Extinguisher

by [katsuteacheskids](#) on July 1, 2007

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**intro: How to Paint with a Fire Extinguisher**

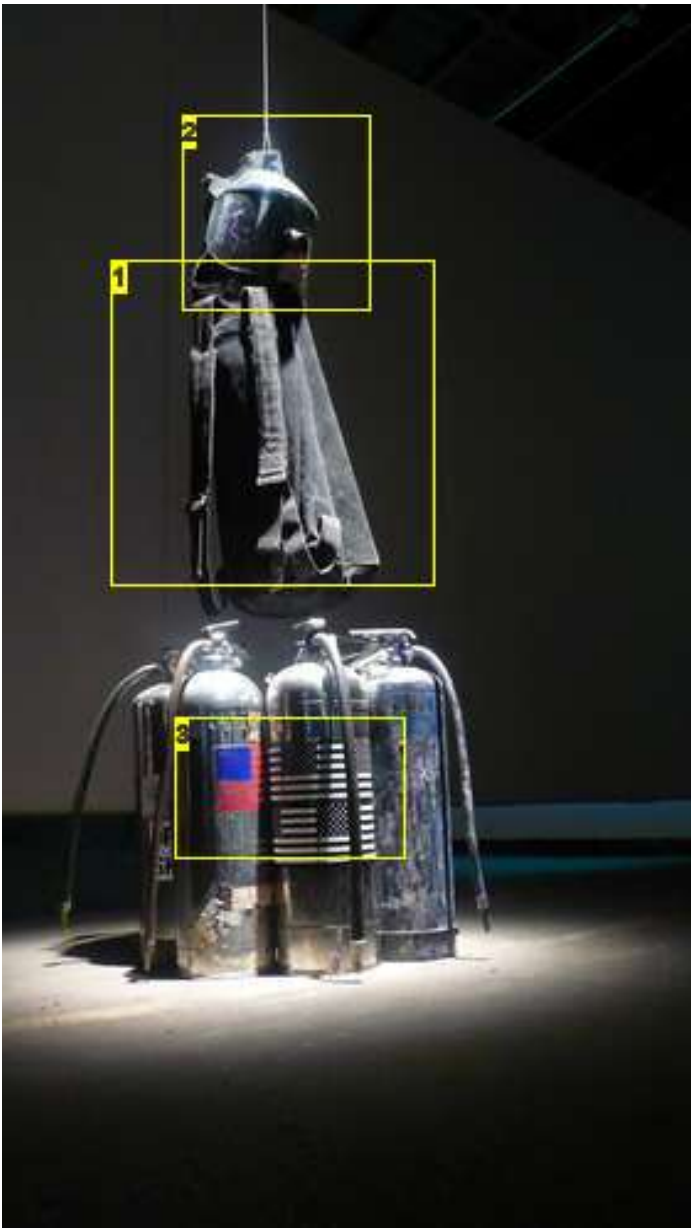
Graffiti is not funny.  
Its not a joke.  
Extinguishers are not fun.  
They are serious.  
Using an extinguisher to paint a wall is an act of pure anti-social behavior.  
So is telling someone how to do it.





### step 1: Get a Fire Extinguisher

First, find yourself an extinguisher. It cannot be a red extinguisher, it must be silver or chrome so that you can see your stupid distorted reflection on the side of it. It also can be identified by the "bicycle tire" valve on the top near the handle/trigger. You can often find these in industrial buildings and large school buildings.



### Image Notes

1. duffle bag
2. pov cam
3. support our troops

### step 2: Empty your Extinguisher

Now, spray out the funky aged juices from within the extinguisher. Make sure it is empty and out of pressure before opening. Open using a large wrench.



### step 3: Fill the Extinguisher

Get a bucket of water based paint. Decide what color to use. I recommend finding something that is dark or that is very light. Humanoids are likely to choose colors close to neutral gray to use on their homes and businesses to keep things calm. Go For Contrast. MAKE A FUNNEL and pour 3/4 of the paint into the empty extinguisher. fill a full bucket with water, AND USING THE FUNNEL, pour into extinguisher now containing paint. Close the beast aka seal the chamber. Tighten the top nut and shake vigorously.



**Image Notes**

- 1. use a water bottle as a funnel



**Image Notes**

- 1. tighten the top but and shake

**Image Notes**

- 1. pour in ur paint and water

**Image Notes**

- 1. reinsert the pin

**step 4: Pressurize the Extinguisher**

Take your filled organ to a gas station and get some change. You can pressurize an extinguisher with any sized pump you want. I've fully charged one using a dinky fuckin nike bike pump that was shaped kinda like a vibrator. But gas station air compressors are the quickest and are often manned by overworked immigrants who are barely conscious. Fill the extinguisher with air. You'll feel the paint begin to severely grumble and gurgle. This acts to mix the paint and water once again. Keep the pressure on for approximately 3min. I often will often fill it with air until the compressor turns off.



### step 5: Paint with your Extinguisher

Once you've reached your target make sure to check the nozzle on the hose for any dry paint or material that may block the flow. Test spray a few dots on the sidewalk to double check. Now the faster you move the better. It will replicate a hand drawn scribe if you are quick and calm. If you go too quick though you'll blow it and if you go too slow you'll run out of ammo.

**TIPS:** using different ratios of paint, water, and air will result in different types of spray, more paint and water, and less air will give a thinner line. More air than paint and water will result in a larger spray but will run out of paint very fast.



**Image Notes**  
1. KATSU



**Image Notes**  
1. needed more contrast



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## Comments

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**KIKO1** says:  
where can i get those silver / chrome extinguishers?

Apr 3, 2009. 12:48 PM [REPLY](#)



**allmercy** says:  
On Ebay I sell them seller ID Allmercy just do the advanced search by seller and put my ID in and buy one or two or ten.

May 31, 2009. 5:10 AM [REPLY](#)



**stephenniall** says:  
You can do this with a red one just have to take the top off n Pressurise it its how i made a flamethrower

May 5, 2009. 7:56 AM [REPLY](#)



**krampus** says:  
comment war ..huh?  
crew with moral means the bombers that dosen't steal paint and stuff. does not bomb on private porperities. and that is a good thing.  
but come back to my mind who give a damn bout that? each person has their own point of view. some said is good some said is bad. just relax... do what you do best. go bomb it.

Apr 27, 2009. 8:28 PM [REPLY](#)



**OliB** says:

Good stuff Katsu ive seen some extinguisher tags here in brasil and they are DIZOPE!!!

Apr 14, 2009. 12:51 PM [REPLY](#)



**Very Keri** says:

"You can often find these in industrial buildings and large school buildings"

Are you suggesting I first steal a fire extinguisher and then turn it into a giant can of spray paint, then go deface someone's property? I hope you get caught, I really do.

Oct 4, 2007. 10:56 PM [REPLY](#)



**rinoh1r** says:

(removed by author or community request)

Feb 11, 2009. 5:02 PM



**Very Keri** says:

You are just so cute! I wanna pinch your widdle cheekies!

Feb 12, 2009. 4:02 PM [REPLY](#)



**khazm** says:

id rather look at graffiti than concrete, brick, plywood, steel shutters, or just about anything else gray and boring.

May 3, 2008. 9:47 AM [REPLY](#)



**Very Keri** says:

That's fine, but if you alter someone else's property without their permission, it's vandalism. It doesn't matter if you recreated the Mona Lisa on the side of an office building, if you didn't have the owner's permission, it's still illegal. (so is stealing fire extinguishers, btw) I don't have a problem with graffiti style. I live near a seawall (pictured below) where it's o.k. and even welcomed that you paint something on the wall so long as it's decent and not something incredibly stupid like "steve wuz heer, b\*\*ches", which makes up over 95 percent of the graffiti you see.

May 3, 2008. 6:59 PM [REPLY](#)



**iBurn** says:

Well...I don't know what graffiti you look at, but whenever our crew is out tagging and we see one of the "Steve wuz heer, b\*\*ches" we paint over it. Though we almost never see anything like that, or anything offensive for that matter. We're a crew with morals, we don't tag private property, we don't tag over anybody else's tags or graffiti, and we try to make it a challenge. Now stop giving it a bad reputation.

Feb 27, 2009. 1:36 PM [REPLY](#)



**Very Keri** says:

It's cute that you say you're "A crew with morals". If you alter ANYTHING that is not personally yours, you're committing a crime. Say for example, you paint an overpass, or a public fence. Who do you think has to pay for that crap to be painted over? If you guessed our tax dollars, then you're right! Furthermore, I don't know how you define "private" but if you're tagging a business, then that business has to then pay for someone to paint over it. Nobody WANTS graffiti on their business and the city doesn't want it on public property either. They don't leave it up there because they like it. They leave it up there because they can't afford to keep painting over it. You know you're doing something wrong, otherwise you would do it in broad day light, in a crowded area with no fear of getting caught. I'm not giving it a bad reputation, you are. If you love your "craft" so much, stop defacing public property and do it on a canvas or plywood and sell it, or advertise your "graffiti" services for people that might actually WANT it on the outside of their business. Quit being a punk.

Feb 27, 2009. 4:02 PM [REPLY](#)



**iBurn** says:

There's a critical difference between crimes and morals. For example, at our school it's illegal to use anything to get around the internet filter; ever tried to do a report on Marijuana with filtered content? Doesn't work. It's also illegal to copy a CD onto your computer, or lend it to a friend so they can copy it onto their computer, and god forbid that anyone should do that. I'm pretty sure that McDonalds can afford to paint 3 square feet of wall, what with their 1.1 Billion Profit last year. I'm fully aware of the fact that taxes help pay for graffiti clean up, so, let's assume that our entire crew of 20 people, stopped tagging today. How about you do the math and figure out how much taxes would increase due to those 20 people no longer tagging. I'll even help, about \$2 of each persons taxes go towards graffiti clean up. Now, if we subtract say...best case scenario, Two tags a month per person x 20 people x 30 years of tagging x 3 sq feet per tag = 43200 square feet total. \$3,000,000 spent annually on graffiti clean up in my state. it costs about \$20 to remove 20 square feet. 43200 x 20 = \$86400. \$1,000,000 - \$86400 = \$991360 still spent per year. 196818 citizens in my city / \$86400 / 30 years = Congratulations, I just saved every resident in my city 7.5 cents a year, you have enlightened me.

Mar 2, 2009. 4:31 PM [REPLY](#)

FYI-We typically use washable spray paint.





**MINIMOOSE101** says:

Mar 28, 2009. 11:03 AM [REPLY](#)

good one paint isnt that expensive its the labor hell ill paint over graffiti for 2 dollars a tag



**Very Keri** says:

Mar 2, 2009. 5:47 PM [REPLY](#)

Since you're so smart, you would be able to figure out that said money could be put to better use, like fixing pot holes or hiring more law enforcement, no matter how "insignificant" it is. As far as businesses are concerned, where do you think that money they use to clean up spray paint comes from? Yes they have billions of dollars, but they have to allocate some of that money toward cleaning up spray paint. Do you think that isn't reflective in their prices? Even companies like Wal Mart have to raise their prices to compensate for all their theft prevention and merchandise loss. Do I need to give you an economics lecture? Since your logic is leaning in this direction, do you not think that if you steal a \$20 item from a company that makes billions of dollars per year, that it's still OK? What is the difference then in stealing the amount of money from a company and doing the equal amount of damage to their property? You know what you're doing is wrong, but you try to validate your actions by arguing that your part in it so insignificant that you disappear in the grand scheme of things. The fact of the matter is you're still contributing to the problem. I love your choice of the word " typically ". That really drives your point all the way in. You seem like a smart kid, but you're wasting your time and money ( in addition to your victim's ) on something as trivial as graffiti. You could be helping your community instead of hurting it.



**iBurn** says:

Mar 2, 2009. 6:22 PM [REPLY](#)

I could be helping my community by cleaning up the graffiti, but it's obviously not leaving anytime soon, so why further waste time on something so insignificant? Of course the money could be put to better use, but it **wont**. It'll go to fund something totally moronic, like getting that CEO (who's been working Oh-So-Hard) on a private jet to Hawaii.



**Very Keri** says:

Mar 2, 2009. 9:28 PM [REPLY](#)

CEO's don't get your tax dollars, and that's beside the point. Vandalism is just as "moronic" as corporate selfishness. You can, I'm sure, find a constructive means of rebelling against the system. You can help your community in other ways besides painting over your own graffiti, like feeding the homeless, becoming a tutor or entertaining old people in nursing homes. If you want to keep discussing this, PM me, this is getting long.



**skidude28** says:

Mar 12, 2009. 5:48 PM [REPLY](#)

The homeless deserve to be homeless (99% of the time) so I refuse to help. I hate children, so a tutor is out of the question. And old people smell bad.  
I'm selfish. I know. I'd rather tag a building, legal or not, than do any of the above.



**rainfay** says:

Jan 29, 2009. 12:52 PM [REPLY](#)

On the pressurizing part you need to be careful not to over pressure the extinguisher.



**aber122** says:

Jan 25, 2009. 10:51 PM [REPLY](#)

can you put a pic of where to attach the air comp.????



**RERY** says:

Oct 9, 2008. 5:00 PM [REPLY](#)

Can You Put A Pic Of Where To Attach The Air Comp. To Extinguisher Cuz I Cant Find Where



**tonan the librarian** says:

Oct 5, 2008. 2:51 PM [REPLY](#)

DON'T THINK!



**kingsilk1** says:

Jun 1, 2008. 11:03 PM [REPLY](#)

where is the valve at can u do it with a red one



**yyttu** says:

Jul 2, 2007. 1:23 AM

(removed by author or community request)



**ve2vfd** says:

Jul 7, 2007. 4:10 PM [REPLY](#)

What you want is a Class A water fire extinguisher. They are chromed here in north america, but in the UK and OZ they are red.

You can find them anywhere they sell Firefighting supplies. A quick web search found this in Oz:  
[http://www.wormald.com.au/fire\\_products/commercialfireproducts/extinguishers](http://www.wormald.com.au/fire_products/commercialfireproducts/extinguishers)



**yyttu** says:  
(removed by author or community request)

Jul 7, 2007. 8:08 PM



**buffy** says:  
according to the extinguisher technician water extinguisher that are 100 psi but can be filled to about the edge of the green to 125 psi

Jun 1, 2008. 6:58 PM [REPLY](#)



**ve2vfd** says:  
Actually, I'm looking at one off our truck right now (guess what I do for a living :) he he he) and it's operating pressure is 100 psi, but the container is rated for up to 500 psi.

Jul 8, 2007. 3:05 PM [REPLY](#)

The hydrostatic test label on it says it's to be tested at 375 psi every 5 years.

Of course your mileage may vary with local versions so always check the labels and ratings.



**mowie** says:  
I think ur a fireman theme stripper

Jan 26, 2009. 1:20 AM [REPLY](#)



**temp** says:  
my guess is that you are a... spaceman! =)

Dec 2, 2008. 3:41 PM [REPLY](#)



**buffy** says:  
i see you a a fre fighter

Feb 6, 2008. 5:39 AM [REPLY](#)

my water ext says it operating pressure 100 psi but the shell is tested to 300 psi and it says the burst pressure is 600 psi the 600 psi it what you called the cotainer pressure rating I was wondeing it say on my can that the hydro stat press is 200 psi so would you think that it could be filled to 200 psi with out a problem???????



**callmeshane** says:  
Yeah... My recollections of pressure vessel testing.....

Oct 18, 2007. 3:46 PM [REPLY](#)

Pressure vessels, such as boilers and tanks etc., are almost exclusively done by filling the unit completely with water and then using a hydraulic pump and a pressure gauge.

The reason being is that water is for all intents and purposes, basically incompressible (well it does compress but only by a teensie weensie little bit).

Soooo if the unit leaks or ruptures, there is only a bit of a squirt or a gush, from the leak or rupture and the internal pressure drops to 450PSI to 0 psi. (what ever - just pick your test pressure)

But if compressed air is used to test pressure vessels, the air is a massive store of potential energy....

And if a pressure vessel fails in a catastrophic manner, the seam / weld (whatever) doesn't just split and leak a bit, the internal pressure continues to exert the force that "broke" the weak spot or defect.... and the pressure vessel continues to split wide open....

This is REALLY REALLY BAD.....

Not only do you have an exploding tank or pressure vessel, with several hundred PSI in it... - which can kill you, you also have a very very dangerous and usually LARGE and HEAVY projectile or projectiles.... cutting loose in all sorts of directions, at high speed, with lots of sharp and jagged edges....

Here are a few pics of failed compressors.....

So I applaude the creative use of a fire extinguisher to paint things with.

I am also careful to point out the difference between the RATED working pressure and the HYDRAULIC (water filled) test pressure...

I also really like really good graffitti, that is colorful and looks great....

But stupid brain dead tagging - that is just an eyesore...



**knex-4-life** says:  
so u have to the ugly silver ones ?

May 29, 2008. 7:12 PM [REPLY](#)



**Temoe** says:  
People say that tagging is the ugly side of graffiti. Maybe it is to some people.

Apr 24, 2008. 1:03 PM [REPLY](#)

But think about it this way, there are some ugly girls out there but i choose to get to know them before i judge. Alot of you do not know about graffiti, so you can't judge.  
and to callmeshawn: you may not thinking that you writing your name is art, but i have spent year drawing my name possibly tens of thousands of time on paper and elsewhere. I have developed the style and shape of the letters, and i have not even skimmed what some people can do with simple one colour tags. So please don't judge if you don't know about the commitment it takes  
x



**jakee117** says:  
yup i totally agree

Apr 4, 2008. 2:00 PM [REPLY](#)

and alot of the tags on train cars look  
crazy awesome!



**jakee117** says:  
I Believe all graffiti is art and a way of letting your name be known  
a tag is like a sig  
and the art is frickin' kool

Mar 26, 2008. 12:26 PM [REPLY](#)



**fancypenguin845** says:  
tagging lets people know that you're out there, even someone youve never met... immature tagging isnt cool tho :P

Apr 2, 2008. 12:48 PM [REPLY](#)



**callmeshane** says:  
I think TAGGING is just stupid and immature.

Mar 9, 2008. 9:51 PM [REPLY](#)

I also think STEALING stuff like fire extinguishers (unless the whole building is about to be bulldozed) is pretty stupid too.  
Go develop a REAL talent, that requires, time, effort and hard work.  
Something that is good for your self respect.



**runkrocker** says:  
it requires SOME amount of talent to make good graffiti and to think of good ideas. maybe you shouldnt judge something you've never tried before.  
judging something when you've never done it is pretty stupid and immature too.

Mar 28, 2008. 11:37 AM [REPLY](#)

being able to make graffiti AT ALL is a real talent. maybe you shouldnt be cutting down someone else's talents. its STUPID AND IMMATURE.

also, how is it not good for you're self respect? - anyone who makes an awesome masterpeice without getting caught will probably have some self respect.



**dustin\_grey** says:  
I'm guessing you've never done it. Tagging takes all of those things, more than you would think.

Mar 23, 2008. 12:49 PM [REPLY](#)

[www.banksy.co.uk](http://www.banksy.co.uk)

Tell me this man isn't talented. And tell me it didn't take him time, effort, and hard work.

Speaking my mind through graffiti does earn myself self respect.



**callmeshane** says:

Mar 24, 2008. 4:54 AM [REPLY](#)

Banksy actually does something very interesting, using a huge range of images, colors and ideas....

Tagging is the idiots version of writing lines outside of detention....

"I am a wanker", "I am a wanker" "I am a wanker" scrawled 50 times over the same train carriage.

I actually like really good artwork over the public transport system, as long as they make clever use of the body and paint around the windows.... and they use lots of great color and designs....

But Dusty..... your not responsible for what has been done to you, or the environment that you have grown up in.

But YOU ARE responsible for what you do with your attitude and what you do to make your life into something brilliant.

If you stand up for bullshit, you will turn out to be an idiot.

If you make the decision to CHOOSE to be your very best and work towards it, and hang out with people who use their talents to make the world a better place instead of writing crap over other peoples things, then you will go places.



**dustin\_grey** says:

Mar 24, 2008. 3:39 PM [REPLY](#)

While I agree with the thought that writing pointless letters on trains is, well, pointless, I can't help but to disagree with you on somethings.

I don't think I stand up for bullshit. I like to think I speak out against it. Sure, they may own it, but in many cases they don't deserve it (such as when they drain a marsh or creek to slap down a billboard and a McDon@lds).

I think that graffiti for the point of destruction isn't worth the paint the piece is painted with. But when a piece is entirely creative, it can become priceless.

It's my world too.



**Full Frontal Graphic** says:

Mar 23, 2008. 7:13 PM [REPLY](#)

You can have your tank professionally tested for not much money. Might be worth it. To make sure you aren't playing with a bomb.



**yooo** says:

Mar 19, 2008. 5:36 PM [REPLY](#)

how do u pressurize it....where do u put the air nozzle



**Full Frontal Graphic** says:

Mar 23, 2008. 7:09 PM [REPLY](#)

There is a shraider valve on the extinguisher, the same valve as on a auto or truck tyre and on some bicycle tubes.

The compressor attaches to that valve, the pressurised air you add to the tank pushes the liquid out when the valve/trigger is opened/pulled



**dustin\_grey** says:

Mar 23, 2008. 12:50 PM [REPLY](#)

I dig it, but I don't think writing your own name on things everywhere is that creative. But it is a great way to get a simple message across in BIG BOLD print.



**fancypenguin845** says:

Mar 22, 2008. 8:36 AM [REPLY](#)

wow this is kool



**AstroHack** says:

Mar 17, 2008. 4:49 PM [REPLY](#)

Heh, I was wondering how the kids around here got it up so high. Great How To. Funny too. =D



**emicanskater** says:

Jan 29, 2008. 6:33 AM [REPLY](#)

this is really good instructable and this could really be useful wen painting the highspots on yourhouse.

and to all the people callin writing(graffiti) tags u r completly wrong a tag is a name in graffiti writing is the beatuful art that makes me smile that is usually put on trains. if all the worlds best writers came together and started putting their skills to good just imagine wat it could be.



**monZy** says:

Jan 19, 2008. 4:38 PM [REPLY](#)

Will this fire exst. work? Water-Foam  
Water+AFFF foams ?? I cant find anywhere, only water based

[view all 82 comments](#)