

PAINT DISPOSAL



Paint, the most common household product that becomes household hazardous waste. Paint contains harmful substances that can be dangerous to our health and the environment if not used, stored, and disposed of properly.

TIPS

- When storing paint, make sure lids are on tight.
- Label the top of each can with the color name & date purchased.
- If you feel comfortable holding the can of paint upside down, then it is dry enough to throw away in your trash.



The best way to dispose of paint: use the paint.

Donate Your Unwanted Paint. If you cannot use the paint, try donating to:

- Neighbors & Friends
- Community Organizations & Groups



Latex Paint vs. Oil Based Paint

Latex Paint

(water-based, acrylic or emulsion) When dry, is disposed of in your regular trash. Latex paint is not hazardous & not accepted at household hazardous waste collection events.

Oil Based Paint

When dry, may be disposed of in your regular trash. If you are overwhelmed with oil based paint, it is accepted at the County's household hazardous waste collection events.

To Determine Your Type of Paint
Find the *Cleanup Instructions* on the label, for:



Aerosol Spray Paint Cans:

Partially full aerosol spray paint cans (oil based) are accepted at household hazardous waste collection events for disposal.

Empty aerosol paint cans are probably **Not** accepted in your curbside recycling container. You can confirm with your municipality or hauler. If they are not included in your recycling program, throw away with regular household trash.



Paint Disposal: What Not to Do:



Do not pour paint down household or storm drains. Many of the chemicals in paint will not be treated by sewage treatment systems or septic systems.

Do not throw liquid paint in the trash. There is always the possibility that the paint will be released from the can. The paint could then be exposed to certain chemicals and cause spontaneous combustion.

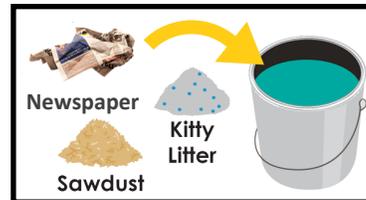


Paint Disposal: What to Do:

Solidify, then dispose of paint. Paint is hazardous in its liquid form. If only a small amount of paint is left, remove the lid (outside, with good ventilation) and let dry. The can may be put out for trash disposal.

3 Steps to Solidifying Paint:

- 1 Pour an absorbent into your paint can.



- 2 Allow paint to harden.



- 3 Throw away in household trash.



For large amounts of paint, get a sturdy cardboard box, fill with absorbent material, pour the paint over & let dry.

Tips for Leftover Paint:

- Cover the opening of can with plastic wrap, secure the lid so the paint doesn't leak. Store the paint upside down, this creates a tight seal around the lid & keeping the paint fresh. Store cans in a dry location that will not freeze.
- You can blend & mix smaller quantities of similar colors of latex paint to use as a primer.
- Revisit the paint store. If you have usable paint in an undesirable color, ask the store if they will tint it to your liking.

